



*A Song of Jeweled Hours  
The Queen of the Islands  
The Bride of Bar Cocab  
The Last Day in the Hospital*



Class PS 2359

Book 1 M 65

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# POEMS

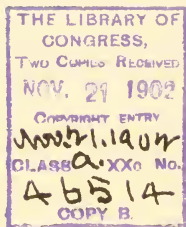
BY

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NEW YORK  
LLOYD  
26 East 22d Street  
1902

PS2359  
.M65  
1902



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MS. 28 7 Nov. 1922.

LOVINGLY DEDICATED  
TO THE SAINTED MEMORY  
OF  
MY MOTHER  
AND HER SISTER ELIZABETH



# A Song of Jeweled Hours



## A SONG OF JEWELLED HOURS

Muse, whom my incense bearing Youth adored,  
Oh gild the garish gloom of these grey years!  
For lo! a dimpled joy has fled the hours  
Which once tripped laughingly o'er fields of flowers,  
But now some blast of early Winter serres,  
Save on the heights my daring Fancy soared,  
Where old Parnassus glitters like a star  
With still its ancient spell alluring from afar.

Ah, save in this the pulse of Youth is stilled,  
The leaf is yellow and the flower is dead:  
No more Life's dreams lure on my trusting heart,  
(Spontaneous dreams without a touch of Art)  
The bubble shredded, each bright charm has fled,  
But strangely Poesy remains to build,  
O'er shattered hopes to disillusioned eyes,  
A greener lovelier Earth and bluer fairer skies.

That Youth, impulsive, fled on buoyant wing  
With Future glancing eyes pursuing Joy,  
Now Age its vision ever backward cast  
Relives old pleasures, dotes upon the Past,  
The boy would be a man, the man a boy!  
So countless generations in the swing  
Of Time and Circumstance, fruition crave  
Along the self-same grooves from cradle unto grave.

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

Although to lengthen the diviner days,—  
The dawn of Being and the flush of Youth,—  
Fond Memory, magic mirror of the Past,  
In insubstantial pageantry has massed  
The shadowy phalanx seeming like the truth,  
But still she blurs the picture in the haze—  
The birth of Thought, awakening Consciousness,  
The Soul's development, how vague our keenest guess!

Oh Bluebird, lover at the court of Spring!  
A flash of Heaven's bright blue thro' light hung  
leaves!  
What son of Science can dissect thine egg,  
And part the feathered wing, the scaly leg,  
The jewelled eye, the pulsing heart that heaves  
Incessant,—in that microscopic thing,  
The Cell, or tell the sage who sought to know  
How in their germinal house the ivory bones might  
grow?

Yon sweet babe cooing to his hands and feet,  
Rosy and dimpled as the limbs of Love,  
What Consciousness has his surroundings wrought?  
What vague conception has his vision caught?  
What ecstasy? what hope? and strange above  
All other mysteries when his lips repeat,  
More musical than any song of bird—  
His own impalpable thought in that weird thing a word!

Yet strange that on the landscape of the brain  
There are no memories etched of wondrous scenes

Through which we all have passed—no pictures placed  
Of the soul's evolution—all erased  
By the experience vast that intervenes  
'Twixt Babyhood and Youth. Oh to obtain,  
Like songs of ancient years long dispossessed  
By later script, a human soul's real palimpsest!

But lo, as faces from the mirror pass,  
As tall white lilies nodding o'er a stream  
Imprint no image when their flowers are dead,  
As the cloud shadows on high hills have fled  
When Heaven shines blue, as a forgotten dream,  
The Mind's developing, the babe that was  
Becomes oblivious—Age remembers Youth—  
The clime of Babes is th' only unknown country, sooth!

But in the heart we build a shrine to Youth  
And yield perpetual adoration there,  
Where is, as the horizon's utmost girth,  
The very meeting place of Heaven and Earth,  
The land of endless Summer—days all fair—  
And large ambition and unsullied truth—  
Where loftiest ideals alone inspire,  
And the white soul's diviner aspirations fire.

A string of pearls that drop off one by one  
Into the darkening sea,—a crown of lights  
That 'round a city's forehead brightly rayed  
Flash a brief time then separately fade,—  
A shrub whose bloom the lingering bee invites

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

That withers flower by flower beneath the sun,—  
Such are the days of Youth in winsome grace  
But like an illset gem how fragile in Life's case!

Such days troop by in holiday attire,  
Like knights on palfreys gay caparisoned,  
Whose oriflammes flout bright the morning sky  
With Hope and ever Hope their battle cry,  
And in defeat even Victory just beyond,  
And Death itself but fulness of desire,—  
Within whose halls for youthful martyrs wait  
The pomp and purple splendors of majestic Fate.

Oh Springtime of the heart! whose tears and smiles,  
Like April's showers and sunshine, nourish flowers,  
How lovely is thy innocence and faith  
And fairy dreams! where no portending wraith,  
Dark phantom of experience! chills the hours.  
Youth walks with angels in the moonlit aisles,  
And every maiden is as pure as fair,  
And every man a knight and friendship is no snare.

As one who climbs a mountain height looks back  
From its cold top of snow, and sees the vale  
Glow with celestial beauty, and the town  
A fairy place, and all the pathway down  
A harmony of perspective in detail,  
So, from the peak of Age, we scan the track  
Of Youth, and all the scene is fresh and bright,  
And every cloud a rainbow spans with living light.



## A Song of Jeweled Hours

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Oh lovely land! yet not its soft blue skies,  
Nor vales of velvet green, nor odorous flowers,  
Nor bird songs antheming the sun's bright race,  
We notice first,—but solely one dear face,  
Whose eyes shine bright as Heaven after showers,  
Whose lips are soft and fragrant blossom-wise,  
Whose voice is music sweeter than e'er burst  
From throat of bird, oh Mother, known and loved the  
first!

Ah me! as viewless as the winds that blow  
The swaying poppy fields in scarlet flame,  
As softly as the green sap climbs the trees,  
Or footfalls of the snow upon the breeze  
When Winter's lords their icy kingdom claim,  
Behold, the lord of the unerring bow  
Into my hearth lit circle boldly stepped,  
Turned toward the mother's honored place, and lo, she  
slept!

The Wooer, Death, ne'er takes the answer "No"  
From human lips,—the young, the fair, the old,  
Who also are the wise and loved, revered,  
He calls them and they go, howe'er endeared  
Or loss irreparable. His heart is cold—  
Cold as the Gorgon face his trappings show—  
The mother from her babe, nay even from  
Her golden throne, the Queen must haste when Death  
cries "Come."

Is it a spacious clime and marvelous fair  
Beyond the utmost stellar marge of Time?

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

The sweet allurements of the earthly Spring,  
The fire or picture bright on insect wing,  
The gentle rain, clear skies and stars sublime,  
Are these forgotten or more glorious there?  
Beyond the cold black river of Death's tide,  
Are there Elysian vales where souls live satisfied?

Oh yes, most truly that evangel saith—  
The instinct of our immortality—  
That throws an iridescent light across  
The darkness of the grave, the present loss,  
And lights the torch of Hope, whereby we see  
The disembodied soul untouched by Death,  
And past the Night of Dissolution, dawning  
The clear celestial glow of Life's eternal morning.

Oh Youth and Hope and Morning! Ye are one.  
How lovely are the garments of the Morn!  
The pearly grey, the rosy blush that hints  
Through fleecy clouds of more voluptuous tints,  
Where star bespangled Night's blue robe is torn,  
Blown sideways by the breathing of the Sun,  
And streaming through the filmy rent, the rays  
Of topaz and of ruby—gems adorning Day's.

Hush! Nature stands, her finger on her lips,  
To catch the full avowal of the Light.  
The slumbering Earth awakes, her thousand eyes  
Expectant, scan the warm revealing skies,  
Still dream lit with the visions of the Night.

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The Orient bursts in flame, the shadow slips  
Adown the mountain's shoulder lingeringly  
Across the peaceful vale, and melts into the sea.

The Earth thrills with desire,—a light winged breeze  
Flutters by spells the loose hung leaves and buds,  
The opening flowers look Eastward. Even the blades  
Dew-glistening, of the grasses in the glades  
Sway softly as the light in golden floods  
Pours through the gates of Dawn. In foaming seas  
The waves of cloud roll on to the far West  
Or hang in blue mid-heaven, like chariots of the Blest.

The Universe is for a moment still  
With fulness of great hope, upon the air  
A charm seems brooding. 'Tis nor day nor night  
When lo, the Sun uplifts himself to sight!  
A million songs salute him everywhere,  
The flowers swing incense and from vale and hill  
A million trees clap hands and roll along  
The praise of Light in one grand universal song.

That swells the diapason here begun  
By flute of bird and little insect fife,  
To larger, grander circles that rejoice  
Beyond the syllables of human voice.  
A glorious chorus perhaps of higher life—  
Insect to man and seraph after man—  
Prolong the praise, even from the earthly sod,  
Unto the radiant throne of the ineffable God!

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

Awake, oh Youth! to glorious action wake!  
No languid Sardanapalus is our theme.  
Sweep o'er Fate's bars on Opportunity's wings,  
Let Night suffice t'ave merely dreamed great things  
Or nursed a hopeless grief! With Morning's beam  
The myriad creatures of wild Nature take  
The burden of existence up and work.  
Shall man, alone astray, his grander duties shirk?

Especially in this freeborn land of ours,  
My Country, with the halo on thy brow  
Of deathless Youth—a miracle to the Past,  
The marvel of republics, best and last,  
A brother to the ancients, proudly now  
Admitted, panoplied with equal powers—  
A royal welcome gives the World to thee,  
Thou darling of the Skies and idol of the Sea!

Beloved of God, endowed of Nature's grace,  
Columbia, perfect world within the world,  
God's working model built into the globe,  
The Earth in little,—in thy upheld robe  
Thou gatherest every gift that others, whirled  
From pole to pole, must with long travail trace  
Their journey to obtain. Lo! at thy feet  
The best of every clime within thine own complete.

What sugared fruits the burning Tropic shapes,  
What edible offerings from the snow clad North,  
The temperate West, the rich and sunny East!  
Thy soil produces all—a world wide feast!

With corn and wheat thou drivest richly forth,  
Crowned with wild olives, purpled with rare grapes.  
Whate'er the tongue of epicure might crave,  
Thy bosom holds or is the tribute of thy wave.

What inexhaustible coffers are thy hills  
Of mineral wealth, of gems and golden ore!  
The miner's pick here shames Aladdin's lamp,  
And Vulcan's forge is to thy mining camp  
An infant's toy. Thou hast profusely more  
Than Prodigality could waste, that fills  
Even like the ancient Hebrew widow's cruse—  
Replenished as withdrawn, and filled again by use.

Thy mountains seem huge altars of the gods,  
Lifting their snow crowned summits through the  
cloud;  
Thy rivers an infinity of boats  
Ten thousand kings might ransom as it floats;  
Thy trees like some great tented army crowd  
The forest space, and by incalculable odds  
Thy prairies rivalled the Siberian waste  
With miles on painted miles of swaying blossoms graced.

Yet not alone creations vast as these,  
Which Nature's hyperbolic mood constructs,  
But vales of dreamlike beauty, glassy lakes,  
Where sails the lily and the white swan makes  
Her nest, whereby the dappled deer conducts  
Her fawn to drink, and whispering groves of trees

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

That echo the wild song bird's airy note,  
Matin and vesper hours o'er the stilled valley float.

Not all thy cataracts plunge, Niagara like,  
From dizzy heights with thunderous roar, nor all  
Thy rising ground uplifts to mountain peaks ;  
But there are sparkling rills like silver streaks  
That flow through moss and fern, or rise and fall  
Like fairy founts, no higher than would strike  
The outstretched hand, and gentle hills whose sides  
Are terraces of vines, wherein the vintner prides.

Red apples, golden oranges and limes  
And shining berries,—field too after field  
Whose magic ashes to its lover's eyes  
Evoke the ghosts of summer clouds and skies  
'Neath which it grew,—the Cotton's snow white yield,  
The palm, the melon crown the harvest times  
With most luxurious Plenty, and far borne  
Beyond the distant seas, the gifts of thy full horn.

But what of cities built, whose citizens  
Outcount the Old World's capitals, whose stones  
Were laid a thousand years before—of spires  
That dome the melodies of sacred choirs,  
Of marts of trade, of courts of law, of zones  
Of architectural glory, or of dens  
Where live the submerged millions side by side  
With tunnels, towers and theatres,—a city's shame and  
pride?

A hundred years ago, where stands to-day  
A hundred cities, roved the Indian brave.  
Where now the smoke of factories ascends,  
The Wigwam's fires burned, or for sinister ends,  
The naked pagan, noiseless as the grave,  
Crept stealthily where his sleeping victim lay;  
Where now the church bells peal the wedding hymn,  
The savage warwhoop rang through forest aisleways  
dim.

Ill fated Race! and must it ever be,—  
The glistening trail of Civilization wet  
With savage blood, the car of Progress seem,  
Though golden axled in the Poet's dream,  
So like the car of Juggernaut? Even yet,  
Th' irreconcilable conflict still we see,  
Though less diverse, where Boer and British meet,  
And Filipino clans against our Flag compete.

With no false standard let us weigh the two,  
Lest we be warring with the ways of God.  
The light and darkness cannot co-exist.  
If one be right, the Wrong must not persist.  
And Peace, the blood red path of War hath trod  
From immemorial days, till Error sue  
For pardon, and do right from pure remorse—  
Till then t' uphold her triumph, Peace must lean on  
Force.

Ah, hard to learn, and harder still to love,  
The truth that cuts more keenly than the sword!

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

Yet this wisdom and the fruit is peace.  
The throne of God must fall or error cease,—  
Judge which is right or likely. Yet abhorred  
As he should be, who would exalt above  
Th' Almighty Will the pirate flag of Wrong,  
How many such to whom all virtues else belong!

Oh Philip of Mount Hope! the brave, the fair,  
To Indian eyes, the generous and the great,  
Yet nathless Civilization's enemy!  
Misguided Chief! the Muse must weep for thee,  
Who fought so gallantly the nobler state  
For country, hearth and altar with despair,  
And died heroically to save thy clan,  
And yet died fighting all the holiest hope of man.

For surely none e'er built on nobler plan  
Who founded empires or created states,  
Than did the fathers in their civic ken,  
Who dared wild woods, wild beasts and wilder men,  
Crossing the unknown Ocean to their fates,  
And planting the republic here of men,  
Beneath whose flag should be no slave, no rod  
Of Caste, nor spiritual tyrant in the place of God.

Oh nobler than descent from kingly loins!  
Thou need'st not envy Britain's storied page,  
(Which is in part thy heritage of praise)  
Nor Greece nor Rome their mock heroic days,—  
Oh thou, whose Signers brought the Earth's best age,  
That now its olden, golden age rejoins,



The World's New Testament of Liberty,  
The despots' doom—the Declaration of the Free.

Usona,\* still in youth and like all youth  
Surpassing lovely, may'st thou ever be  
The mother of the exile, and the hope  
Of trodden climes. Where'er the weak may cope  
With throned Oppression may they turn to thee,  
And gain new courage, till thy leavening truth  
Shall franchise all the Earth, and bid her fling  
Fore'er aside, the tyranny of priest and king.

This hope lies in thy young men and their work,  
In whom unselfish ardors best aspire.  
That high, divine enthusiasm which  
Springs strong in youth, and makes its instincts rich  
With promise for the race, that native fire  
Of altruism, that forbids it shirk  
Whate'er of toil or danger looms above  
Its ideals, be they country, church, or fame, or love.

Oh Love! thou art the natural clime of Youth,  
Its soul's complexion from its earliest dawn,  
When first it sucked the milk of life and love  
From the white bosoms that leaned soft above  
With warm reciprocal affection, on  
Through Nature worship and its pets, and sooth,  
Through childish friendships, till it finds all grace,  
And hope, and joy resplendent, in one only face.

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\* U(nited) S(tates) o(f) N(orth) A(merica).

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

A face with all the glory of a star,  
A light diviner than the sun or moon,  
That fills the Earth with rarer atmosphere,  
And makes the old World new, a radiance clear  
And soft as sparkling waves in shining June,  
That brings eternal Spring in hearts that are  
Prepared, that shows all fair things still more fair,  
And o'er the rest, even throws a veil of Beauty there.

All Earth is Love's—the glorious play of light,  
The music of falling waters, cloudless skies,  
The breath of flowers, the blush of harvest fruit,  
(The very birds, love touched, no longer mute,  
Sing rhapsodies to Love's delighted eyes)  
The dewy hush of Morn, the star-gemmed Night,  
Through the wide Universe, along the Sun's  
Far golden way, the current of Love's pulses runs.

The paths of Love are fringed and winged with flame!  
Who does not love, forsakes celestial bliss,  
Who has not loved, has surely lived in vain,  
Outside the Eden where he could obtain  
Free entrance and fruition, since 'tis this  
Alone is left, though with a different name,  
Of the young world's original Paradise,  
Where still descends an angel, bearing Heaven's device.

Where Love's feet touch the ground, it bears a flower;  
Where Love leans, gushes forth a living rill.  
It lights the soul of man, and lo! his heart

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

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Becomes a temple. Romance, Fancy, Art,  
And Music, through the brain ecstatic thrill.  
Yea, grander still the largess of its dower,  
Where Faith and Hope alone the halo see,  
Love moulds the noble thought of Immortality.

Love taught the human hand its skill at first,  
And e'er without Love, Art is selfishness;  
A thing p'rhaps fair to look upon, but cold  
And heartless as the miser's clammy hold,  
And meaningless as ornaments of dress  
From some Etruscan tomb. Life seems accurst  
That ends in some neglected grave, above  
Whose weed grown mound, there have been shed no  
tears of Love.

The tears of Love! alas, the tears of Love!  
Of love bereft and widowed. Be controlled,  
For all—the king even, with his crown of pride—  
Lay each extrinsic circumstance aside  
Who reach the end—the Usurer, his gold,  
Beauty, her roses, favored none above  
The beggar,—so at last, Love's darling dies,  
And at the bier, the lone survivor's tear-stained eyes.

But there are memories, loved and tender, left,  
And Hope, that sees a rainbow through her tears;  
While still the heart repeats, "I once was blest,  
My love in death was pillowed on this breast.  
One goes awhile before to brighter spheres,

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

Where I shall follow shortly." So bereft  
Of sight, but strong in Love and Trusting, saith,  
"There can but temporary ill accrue from Death."

But oh, the tears, the bitter tears of Love  
Betrayed and sullied! Like a sea-weed cast  
Upon the alien shore to waste and die,  
A thing disdained of every passer by!  
Alas, that aught once fair could e'er be classed  
With such extremes,—the heaven of heavens above,  
The hell of hells below,—or e'er amerce  
The sweet to venomous flower—the blessing to a curse.

Happy the youth whose love in innocence,  
And stainless honor, seeks the Altar's grace!  
All Heaven and Earth raise hands to bless his love,  
His faith shall be the constancy of the dove,  
His labor, glory, and his home, a place,  
Where honest Hospitality shall dispense  
To honoring friends, a joyous festal board.  
His pride shall be his offspring, he of them adored.

Not so the laughing leman's lawless love,  
Though dance and song speed on the rosy hours,  
And sparkling wine and thoughtless repartee  
Fill Bacchanalian revels with loud glee,  
Enjoyment even Phryne soon deflowers  
Of every charm, ere Time's ungallant shove  
Displace from Beauty's eminence. Ah me!  
How deathly bitter will Satiety taste to thee.

This is the primal curse, that never dies !  
 The bane of wrong desire—the palate cloyed !  
 Just as it stoops with lewd and feverish haste  
 The dainties of th' unhallowed feast to taste,  
 The soul reels faint from that but now enjoyed,  
 And turns disgusted with a sick surprise,  
 To find what once desirous seemed and fair,  
 Should be the outer veil of foulness festering there.

This is no fable of the moralist—  
 Of Dead Sea apples burnished golden red,  
 That tempt the taste to take then to the teeth  
 Turn salty ashes hid the skin beneath  
 A thousand thousand o'er the wide world sped,  
 Upon the path of Cain, where Chance may list,  
 Seeking the river Lethe—to forget  
 Their sole, footsore desire,—teach the same parable yet.

Oh Woman, flower of heaven or fruit of hell !  
 Wine of the mercy or the wrath of God !  
 According as her soul may wield the sway  
 Of Passion, or in Lust's or Honor's way.  
 A glory and a grace, if she hath trod  
 In the white light of chastity—a spell,  
 Inspiring men to heroic deeds, that be  
 The boast of Time—the victories of the pure and free.

But ah, more deadly than the cobra's glance,  
 Or honey of Trebizond that mads the brain !  
 The melting eye, low whisper, amorous sigh,  
 And the warm breast's voluptuous reply.

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

What gifts from men could not fair Helen obtain?  
What soul escape whom Circe would entrance?  
Who with th' Egyptian Syren could dispute?  
Or to ripe Beauty's lips deny her pleading suit?

But far from Youth to lose in myrtle groves  
Its virile promise and its strenuous race,  
Or sulk Achilles fashion in the tent  
Of Opportunity;—for hours misspent,  
No hand can turn upon the Dial's face  
The shadow back, that ever forwards roves.  
For Youth, achievement! Let no cause delay—  
Lest Glory ope her wings and fly fore'er away.

Achieve, achieve and honorably achieve!  
What has not Youth achieved? Behold the waste  
Where dragons champed, and thorny cacti thrive,  
A city shines, the jungle is a grove  
For Labor's recreation. Interlaced,  
Colossal bridges span where cataracts heave,  
Or tunnels pierce the high forbidding Alps.  
The iron roads scale their sides or cap their cloud veiled  
scalps.

In deserts vast to brave the dread simoon,  
Through trackless wilds to plunge with dauntless  
heart,  
To fight the prowling tiger, and to dare  
The tawny lion in his midnight lair,  
To crush the cobra, risk the poisoned dart  
Of the fierce aborigine—the doom

Of Indian capture from Malayan isles  
To the Aleutian shores where Summer never smiles—

Has not youth faced them all? And ventured life  
On many a chartless sea, aye dove beneath,  
Into the treacherous Ocean's caverns dark,  
And snatched even from the dread jaws of the shark  
The lustrous pearl to gem a votive wreath  
To Beauty; dared the elemental strife,  
Through hurricanes and lightnings, blundered on  
Where Duty called—there Youth without demur has  
gone.

Yes, these thy triumphs are and dearly bought!  
The vista of the Ages in their script,  
Which we call History, tells the precious price  
Of blood and sweat and tears and sacrifice  
Where Youth with Nature wrestled and equipped  
Our own consummate day—to which is brought,  
Fit legacy to the heir of centuries!  
All pomp and circumstance of luxury and ease.

Still stalwart Youth seeks not soft, silken sloth  
For hours of leisure. Perhaps a three league walk  
E'er morning dews are dry upon the way,  
The summer idlesse of a holiday,  
Beneath green trees and sweet congenial talk  
With friends, or perhaps one dearer still, or both,  
Or by the murmurous sea or vine hid nook,  
Alone, yet not alone, with some long treasured book.

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

Oh true and most ennobling are the charms  
Of Books, unselfish, uncomplaining friends!  
Give me, ere Strength decline, and Health decay,  
A home and plot, walled in by blooming spray,  
Which will supply my wants, and his who bends  
His way occasionally to my door for alms;  
And 'round my room encase the books I love.  
I ask of Earth no wealthier state or rank above.

Within the cloistered quiet of that room,  
The riches of the ages would be mine!  
The company of saint, and sage, and king,  
Would there be with me, deathless bards to sing  
Their deathless songs, and master wits to shine  
And chase with aptly spoken words all gloom—  
The great of old, the noblest of to-day,  
Would be my ministers, and in my service stay!

Who could have more? Not thou, poor slave of gold,  
Whose sole ambition is to gather more!  
Not thou, enamored with the lust of power,  
Whose soul is soiled to reign thine earthly hour!  
Nor thou, vain fop! whose thought can only soar  
To cut a coat, or tie with a new fold,  
A silk cravat. Ah me, no poverty  
Is half so pitiable as either of the three!

To have few wants, and have the health and strength  
With thine own labor to supply them all;  
To furnish heart and mind and be content  
With inexpensive housing; to have lent



A hand to help the neighbor who may fall;  
 Withal no Pharisee, feeling yet thy length  
 From God's requirements—still uprooting greed  
 And selfishness and envy—thou art rich indeed!

The friends of Youth, whose friendship is as wine,  
 The sunshine of the soul, we ne'er forget.  
 But friends most real, most intimate, and fresh,  
 Have ne'er put on the solid veil of flesh,  
 Nor robed themselves in our mortality yet,  
 But linger airy creatures, half divine,  
 Though born of human intellect, and shrined  
 In our own deathless essences—the soul and mind.

Strange,—you and I, though we have met and loved,  
 Held hands, and are most lonely when apart,  
 And heart to heart revealed with prodigal speech,  
 Are still unsolvable mysteries, each to each!  
 These bodies are not you and I. No art  
 Can teach the eye to see, or hand ungloved  
 To clasp the invisible conscious self within,—  
 The tangible investiture of bone and flesh and skin!

There are, who having eyes, yet through some fault,  
 Or niggardly mood of Nature, from their birth  
 Can never with corporeal vision trace  
 The daylight, or the darkness, or the face  
 Of kin; and some, with still less pitiful dearth,  
 The green of grass, or blue of heaven's vault,  
 Can easily distinguish, but no more,—  
 The seven rayed prism shines to them with three or four.

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

But all of us are born with eyes too gross  
To see the shape or color of the soul.  
The separate personality, which though linked  
With bodily volition, is distinct  
And definite,—the self, complete and whole—  
Not heart, nor brain, nor flesh, which loose or close  
Outlines its character. And stranger still,  
Neither e'er saw the I, that guides in each the will!

And so because, perchance, as one has said,  
“Our life is like a story that is told,”  
The children of the brain, the poet's tale,  
The novelist's fiction, in our thoughts prevail  
More real, than the daily deeds enrolled  
In living men, who soon will be the dead.  
The gold they fought for, others soon will store,  
Their names, be soon forgot, their dust, e'en be no more!

Longfellow, Bryant, Emerson and Poe,  
These in my Youth were laurelled, aureoled names;  
And Whittier, Lowell, Holmes and Hawthorne, threw  
The glamor of our nascent national hue,  
Upon its sky of Literature. In flames,  
Their stars flashed forth, the incredulous world to  
show  
In varied moods and voices, a refrain  
From native fountains, drawn and sung in patriot strain.

Of these, two were enshrined apart, and dwelt  
In loneliness, from out whose oriel, poured

Thick clouds of incense, hovering like a veil,  
To robe in shadow these within the pale  
Of the weird temple, where they both adored,  
Akin, but yet dissimilar. One had knelt  
Beside the altar where the glory shone,  
And one, in darkened aisles, nor e'er had further gone.

For Poe missed, somehow, seeing the divine.  
He wrestled with the demons that oppose  
The higher Way, and saw but fettered ghosts,  
Where more perspicuous vision sees the hosts  
Of liberated spirits. Verse and prose  
A rapt disciple he at Beauty's shrine,  
But not alas! a prophet. Hawthorne saw  
The Providence of Nature and the spiritual law.

The one, a ritualist, who loved the types  
And vestments of the service, surpliced choirs,  
And swinging censers, while the organ made  
Bizarre, yet wondrous music, while he played  
The same, sad theme of which he never tires,  
And 'wakening Echo, who, with dulcet pipes,  
Called back the repetend for his Lenore,  
And others, loved and gone and hopeless evermore.

The melodist of the lost! upon a lyre  
Of lovely sounds, whose echoes were as hues,—  
Chromatic words, that in the higher scale  
Stung sibilant with satire; but the veil  
Of sense and flesh obscured the deeper views.

The soul died with the body, and the higher,  
And Godlike rays of immortality  
To Hawthorne as a sun, Poe's genius could not see!

Like Kipling, a strabismus of the soul  
Confused his vision, hence a life askew,—  
The corollary of relentless Fate—  
That circumscribes his fame, for none are great  
Who measure the material to our view  
As larger than the spiritual. When the roll  
Of men pre-eminently grand, ye scan,  
The body is the husk, the spirit is the man!

And Hawthorne, with his clearer insight, seeing  
The tincture of the soul by lust and sin,  
The heavenly law, with the divine intent,  
That bids Remorse, the spectre, dog the bent  
Of Evil, until exorcised within,  
By the regeneration of the being,  
In shining harmony with righteousness,  
Bears honorably the palm by Virtue's pure duress!

And he, our singing Brahmin, who has made  
Philosophy seem poetry, and song,  
Philosophy, had also shared his praise  
In the Academy with living bays.  
But lo! in groves of Baal his way went wrong!  
He listened to false priests, and so betrayed  
The Conscience of the Universe—intoned  
The litany of Nature, but her God dethroned!

Oh Poet, well beloved of the Muse,  
 How gracious were the stars that watched thy birth!  
 She gave to thee her lyric harp whose strings,  
 Aeolian like, chant Nature's communings  
 Most musical, in ether high o'er Earth,  
 Where sings the lark, and Cloud no shadow strews,  
 In that serener sphere which was thy mood,  
 Where worldlings find no place, and Orphic comrades  
 brood

With other brilliant souls that madly erred  
 Oh eloquent casuist, though turned aside!  
 But not by love nor passion driven astray,  
 Nor fierce ambition,—thy clear crystal lay  
 Its choral birth in intellectual pride  
 Conceived, that barred the great Creative Word,  
 Or prisoned Him in the vesture of His world,  
 In rock or sun or sky,—in flower and dew impearled.

His light illumines the mind but chills the heart.  
 We turn to other singers for relief  
 From doubt, and mental questionings that retard  
 The growth of souls, such as the Quaker Bard,  
 Whose simpler ballads soothe the heart of Grief,  
 With inspiration for Life's sadder part,  
 Drawn from the shrine of Service, understood  
 By one who walks with God and feeds on angel food.

No gifts to him gave the Parnassian Nine,  
 Nor e'er of Castaly's springs his lips had drank;  
 But his own Country's Muse inspired his song

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

To strenuous strains, attacking vested wrong,  
The genius of New England, from the bank  
Of Merrimack, where she had built her shrine  
Where opes the violet first—the eye of Spring  
Arose to crown her poet and to bid him sing!

A chain of daisies 'round her head was wreathed,  
Her arms filled high with sheaves of golden rod,  
And in her lustrous eyes the wistful grace  
Of the love legends of the Red Man's race,  
Whose fields of romance still her fancy trod;  
But in her heart, she lived the faith bequeathed  
By mystic ancestors. Her laureate limned  
The charms of native homes and Christian living  
hymned.

And Bryant, in his grand simplicity,  
An antique Roman, e'er supremely sane!  
True poet, journalist, first citizen—  
Respected e'en in soulless Mammon's den.  
Oh, all too little his infrequent strain!  
Who sang his native landscape, and the sea,  
The Prairie, and the Forest, and the Power  
Who guides the wild bird's flight, and his, in Death's  
dark hour.

Twin with the other silver bearded singer,  
Who charmed the generations of my Youth,  
The Bard of Sentiment and Scholarship,  
Whose blameless life was one wind favored trip

Around the Happy Islands. He, in sooth,  
Found Fortune was no fickle jade, whose finger  
Caressed him first, then strangled, but always  
Gavè fortune, fame, and friends, and health, and length  
of days.

He was a gleaner in the world's wide field,  
Who took the gold and gems of other men,  
And made a rare mosaic, with the touch  
Of master artists, so exquisitely such,  
We loved his pictures—sea, and shore, and fen,  
And still life scenes, to him a fairy yield  
Of Puritan firesides, else a dreary place,  
Aglow with light and love through his transfiguring  
grace.

He chose the cloistered walks where students tread,  
The atmosphere of ancient books he breathed,  
Which gave an Old World grace to New World  
themes,  
And versatile,—the gloomy Tuscan's dreams  
Interpreted for us, and likewise wreathed  
The legends of the Indian, forest bred,  
Into a saga, by which we suspire  
The odorous pines and hemlocks at our library fires.

I've walked the lawns he tended, gazing down  
The tranquil Charles, and its world famous bridge,  
And as its tide flowed noiselessly along,  
I've mused upon the Master and his song,  
And watched the moon rise o'er a cloudy ridge,

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

To flood with silver light the silent town.  
And such the witchery of the place and hour,  
The magic of his verse had sacramental power.

To soothe the restless spirit, and to place  
A finger on the lips of wild complaint,  
To spiritualize the selfishness of Grief,  
And purge Ambition, 'till it finds its chief  
And better purpose is, no stoic saint,  
But warm with feeling for another's case,  
To spend whatever superior gift possessed,  
To champion the poor, the wounded, the oppressed.

Pilgrim! if e'er thy wandering steps incline  
To Cambridge, seek to see the ancient house  
Where in the room where Washington once stood  
As at an altar stand, the pure and good  
The Singer wedded for his Muse's spouse.  
The room remains the same, his books still shine  
In rows placed by his hand, his pictures, all  
Of Culture that he loved, are there on floor and wall.

I've stood within the study and invoked  
The phantoms of his friends and daily guests;  
Again the lamps seemed lighted, and elate  
The hospitable flames leaped in the grate;  
And to the mind again their file invests  
The chamber where they eat and sang and joked  
And grandly argued Beauty, Virtue, Truth—  
I turned, and all were gone, even as my star-led Youth.



Among them Lowell stood, as oft of old,  
With Dante's deathless scroll clasped in his hand;  
Our Muses' most capricious son and bold,  
Who fused into the walls of purest gold  
The fool's pyrites, scintillating sand,  
In wantonness as by no law controlled,  
Or, as to show with what indifferent ware,  
He could build splendid structures palace-like and fair!

He played on various instruments—anon  
An organ tone, orchestral, deep and grand,  
Then dying to an echo, as the mood  
Of different subjects differently wooed  
His sympathetic soul. If feebly planned,  
The inspiration from his theme was gone,  
The music languished, and the bard could pay  
A doubtful compliment, and mediocre lay.

The full, rich diapason of his song—  
The deathless anthem to commemorate  
With blissful adorations that outran  
All tears, the splendors of the kingliest man  
That ever perished at the helm of State,  
Or tuned to humbler keys to pillory wrong,  
The politician's venal heart dissect,  
And be the Bion of New England's dialect.

As many sided as the prism of glass,  
That cuts the white rays of the sun between  
Its knife, like angles into flowers of light,  
He seemed a prophet with true second sight;

A critic now, intuitively keen,  
A wit, whose words with wholesome laughter pass,  
Cavalier, Puritan, orator, diplomat—  
And citizen of the world—American at that!

Just one more name to end the long review :  
The smiling Autocrat deserves our praise,  
The radiant dandy in the Muses' court ;  
Thy page, Apollo,—loving to resort  
To Beacon Street salons and social ways,  
A daintier Praed, (comparisons to pursue),  
A sweeter Locker, singing to a harp,  
That laughed away the cares that make Life's burdens  
sharp.

The mantle of the earlier Georgians fell  
Upon him in a measure as he wrote  
His Club addresses, after dinner rhymes,  
In epigram and proverb for the times,  
With here and there a clear, original note,  
So quaintly wise, so humorous his spell.  
We love the singer of the cheerful day,  
And could not wish to change the temper of his lay.

All these bequeathed some tangible gifts to men  
Who follow after,—others left no trace  
Who moved my youth to smiles, or tears, or filled  
With wrath, or emulation, as they willed :—  
The Lords of Mimicry! whose mobile face  
And vibrant voice and graceful gesture, when

They trod their stage enthralled. Death's curtain  
falls!

Lo, shape nor voice remains in the deserted halls!

Their trade in shadows and in echoes dealt,  
Their eloquence died in non-recording air,—  
Their fame was but the fragrance of the flower,  
All dissipated in its little hour,  
Or spindrift of the wave that glasses fair  
The sunbow, for an instant, ere it melt  
Into the raging water, with no trace  
Of its rare, fragile beauty on the Ocean's face.

Who at a hundred years will speak of Booth?  
Or others praise whose praise recurs to me  
Melodious in the golden days now past?  
Unless some Singer wreathed of Fame, will cast  
A portion of his immortality  
Around them, and revive their lives forsooth,—  
Picture their form and genius and their name  
Embalm for future days in th' amber of his fame.

Here was a man whose voice was as a chord  
Of music, and whose every motion grace,  
A face as classic as a Grecian god—  
The Merlin of the Drama, at whose nod  
The Past gave up its dead, and in the space  
And action of the mimic world, restored  
The Danish Prince, and Brutus living still,  
Iago, Romeo, Lear—whomever he might will.

The king of Tragedy! and yet his Art  
So versatile, he could all parts portray;  
Superb in Comedy, a lord of smiles,—  
The rarer humor that the soul beguiles.  
In sunnier moods he made the genial play  
A mental recreation, while the heart  
Laughed deep,—yet with the same exquisite grace  
Of one who never pandered to the low or base,

But still essentially the tragic soul—  
An actor, who expressed himself, and felt  
All sensibility to beauteous things  
That fade—the swan expiring as it sings;—  
That fatal flaw in Nature, which has dealt  
As Glory's utmost verge an unreach'd goal;  
That spiritual hunger for the unattained,  
The hectic rose with which his own clear soul was  
veined.

A kin to him the men of golden lips,  
The orators and pleaders of a cause,  
Who brushed aside the mask of Self and fought,  
For all Humanity in deed and thought,  
With words like flames that warmed the World's ap-  
plause,  
That crowned them living; but ungrateful, strips  
The wreath of Recollection from their brows  
When newer champions rise, and later interests rouse.

All—actors, preachers, orators,—all, pass  
Like comets shining for a golden time,

Then fade away into the outer dark  
Of drear Oblivion, without gleam or spark  
To bring to mind the glory of their prime.  
The wise, the witty, but a song, alas!  
That for a moment charms with glad surprise,  
And then in silence hushed, obliterated, dies.

But Youth, so opulent in present joy,  
Cannot forecast the bankruptcy of Age,  
Nor realize that in its fragrance flung,  
Like burning incense from a censer swung,  
The soul is passing,—that the elements wage  
Unceasing warfare, finally to destroy  
Its tenement. And lo, our Youth is past,  
And ere we note the dying flower, comes Winter's blast!

Decay and change are woven in the woof  
Of this material world,—they form the web  
Of Time and Space and map their full design.  
The stars are wasting even as they shine,  
The crystal river shrinks with every ebb,  
The rolling globe, the sky that forms its roof,  
Are all the slaves of Mutability—  
Th' impersonal god who holds the Universe in fee!

All heaven and earth seem one stupendous whirl,  
The panorama of eternal change,—  
And though we view the crescent with delight  
Grow nightly large into the perfect Night,  
And Hope, when icy blasts of Winter range,

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

Sees the Spring change and flags of green unfurl,  
Foreboding still, the lips of Science say,  
“Each lovely cheek of Change—the hectic of Decay!”

I saw as you may see where England's pulse  
Beats rhythmic with the roar of London town,  
The rock graved picture of the Assyrian King,  
His queen enthroned before him banquetting,  
And lo! the night of ages has come down,  
And war and drought and lightning that convulse  
The mightiest empires, have made wreck of his,  
And hurled his conqueror's conqueror even to the abyss.

Ah, from that far off golden afternoon,  
When they sat dallying by their palace walls,  
To this, what nations rose in many a clime  
To power colossal and defying Time!  
Now desert sands choke their judicial halls,  
Their million trodden streets, a vast lagoon  
Now floods, and these but prophesy the end,  
With which all that are now, eventually must blend.

From small beginnings to th' acme of power,  
And then reverting to the darkness drear,  
As if this were Art's, Culture's destined close—  
The primal barbarism from whence it rose:  
As nations, so a world—sphere after sphere,  
If we may trust the telescope, their dower,  
The voiceless ruin of a lifeless void,  
The charnel house of Space, revolving though destroyed.

Yet this tremendous spectacle on the stage,  
 Whose theatre is the universe, seems less  
 Than one poor human spirit facing Death.  
 Is this the ending? After parted breath,  
 Is there eternal sleep and nothingness?  
 The mother heart, the wisdom of old age,  
 The good, the true, the gentle, more than stars—  
 Are they extinct, when Death their physical semblance  
     mars?

The star led Keppler, who by thought conceived  
 The secret of the planets, England's knight,  
 Who 'neath his orchard trees by reasoning saw  
 The formula of Matter's basic law  
 That binds the constellations by its might,  
 And Shakespeare's matchless genius, that ensheaved  
 The wit and wisdom of all centuries,—  
 Has Earth's decay the power to quench the soul of  
     these?

Oh deep, pathetic thirst of human hearts!  
 That cannot circumscribe within the span  
 Of mortal life, its longings and desires,  
 Or its attainments, but the more aspires  
 The nobler its ambition,—while the man  
 Of upright walk who feels Misfortune's darts,  
 And sees the base exalted, feels it is  
 The recompense of Law—the higher life than this.

Whereof One speaks and cries—"If any thirst  
 Lo! let him come to Me and drink." And lo!

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

A many millioned choir of voices rise,  
His witnesses, to certify Him wise  
And true—From beds of suffering, scenes of woe,  
From mansions grand, and prison cells accurst,  
The learned, th' illiterate, slave and the unpriced,  
From all Earth's corners come to magnify the Christ!

Lord of immortal Youth and Age undimmed!  
He came the flower of Hebrew prophecies,  
Whom ancient type and ritual displayed,  
The World's Desire, for whom the nations prayed,  
The Answer to the prayer of Socrates,  
The Christ, whom Roman Virgil's verses hymned,  
Unconscious of their spiritual meaning sooth.  
Behold the Eternal God wears Man's eternal Youth!

Shine sacred Star whose light outshines the sun,  
Lead to the Babe in Bethlehem's hallowed stall!  
He ran through all Life's stages up to man,  
A stainless soul whom Nature could not ban—  
He conquered her, retrieving Adam's fall,  
Of human excellence the paragon!  
Interpreting the thoughts of God to man,  
Then suffering for their weal the death none can again!

With whom will ye compare the Christ? The light  
Of twenty analytic centuries  
Has flashed upon His life in hate or love,  
And still He shines, the flawless gem above



All others,—Boodh, Confucius, Socrates,  
 Who have given creeds to men in Nature's night,  
 That even His foes have glorified His deeds  
 And cried Centurion like "This Man from God proceeds!"

The grandest souls are circumscribed by race  
 And dwarfed to local heroes, seer and sage,  
 Whose proper praise the world delights to pay,  
 Are cramped by limitations of their day,  
 But Christ is universal. On the page  
 Wherein His rare, unsullied life we trace,  
 He moves th' Exemplar of each age and clime,  
 Star of the Occident! the Orient Sun sublime!

He only has the words of endless life,  
 He has the grace of deathless youth, which we,  
 Whose eyes are fixed upon the westering sun  
 Know is alone the heart of Joy, for dun  
 The night of age comes down upon us, and dree  
 Life, day by day, loses the zest of strife,  
 The fire of Passion, first a living flame,  
 To ashes burns and turns a memory and a name.

Ne'er Nature Man's rejuvenation brings,  
 No miracle of the Phœnix,—once, they say,  
 An occult bird blown from mysterious isles,  
 And twice, in each millennium to the piles  
 Of golden Heliopolis, then away  
 To far Arabia, where it flapped its wings,

## A Song of Jeweled Hours

Till flames burst flower-like forth, and from its breast  
A newer body sprang, as from another nest.

But lo! the Holy Grail! that jewelled cup  
Whose sacred Blood transcends all Nature's powers,  
That cleans the stain of Adam and the wreck  
Of our mortality, and leaves no speck  
Of imperfection in those heavenly bowers,  
Where those who of the precious chalice sup,  
Find daedal fields of changeless Youth and Life,  
Beyond the touch of Time or Sorrow or of Strife!

Not always Youth thus apprehends the light,  
Some films of inexperience blur the eye;  
As one, who tries the telescope at first,  
Sees all the skies in novel radiance burst  
And, wonder stricken, notes some star on high,  
And dreams a planet shines before his eye  
Which is a stellar light of less degree.  
But, oh Lord God, that Shelley's soul could rail at  
Thee!

My Youth, too, heard melodious voices ring  
That ravished my rapt soul with wondrous song.  
When Beauty first the youthful votary greets  
She lures him with the heresy of Keats,  
And feeding him with lotus, leads along  
The hidden reefs, whereby the Syrens sing,  
Whose sunlit waves wash o'er a precipice  
More perilous than Sylla or fierce Charybdis.

Can one feed Hunger with the breath of flowers?  
Or with pale moonshine quench the pang of Thirst?  
The hour will surely in its chariot roll  
To bear from all of Earth the parting soul.  
The firm blue columns of the Heavens will burst,  
And, light as gossamer, Earth's rock ribbed towers  
Dissolve; where then shall it find resting place  
The reft undying spirit, in cold voids of space?

Something within, that is not satisfied  
With that sweet Music that delights the ear,  
With that bright glory that allures the eye—  
The hues and forms of Beauty—makes a cry,  
The Baby's cry of loneliness and fear  
When left alone at Winter eventide,  
Th' eternal hunger of Humanity  
That craves the living God until Christ's face we see.

Lo! to the questions of the World He speaks,  
And soothes the hearts that marvel at the Past,  
Its prayers unanswered, hopes ungratified,  
The urgent needs of Pain that were denied;  
Where Death, capricious, was allowed to blast  
The rose just blooming on the infant's cheek,  
Yet left old age, that joyously would doff  
Its impotence, a withered stalk for Time to scoff.

Aye, He will come to end the peasant's moil,  
To conquer the coercive power of Wealth  
Against the law of Nature, that makes free

The privilege of the gifts of Earth and Sea  
To every man, and rights of Life and Health,  
And make proportionate reward of Toil,  
And, judging in His righteousness, set free  
The soul of man to its diviner liberty!

# The Queen of the Islands



# THE QUEEN OF THE ISLANDS

## CANTO FIRST

Dark purple curves of the foam-flecked, wave-ribbed,  
    sea,

Dash on the lone, white beach with a resonant, musical  
    glee;

And the limp, ribboned grasses, wet with the spray of  
    the wave,

Tangle the wild waste bloom aflower on her grave,  
Where the languorous butterflies myriad-eyed

    Float and sip with Sybarite ease,

While the tireless winged osprey follows the rhythmic  
    tide,

In those shining alien seas,

Northward and southward as far as the strained eye  
    reaches.

She whose life was a brief sweet summer of Love,  
Hath walked where the silvery path of the luminous  
    beach is,

And now the blown sands are shifting and drifting  
    above

The place, where in radiant beauty she fearlessly trod.

But no white stone erected there,

    Tells of the clay that 'neath the sod,

Was once a form as bright and fair

    As ever fleshed by God.

## The Queen of the Islands

No tale inscribed in marble, grief,  
Affection's final sole relief,  
Portrays the beauty of those eyes  
Ere held in Death's eterne eclipse,  
Nor what inestimable prize,  
Men saw in her ripe lips.  
For once at festival and ball,  
She was the queenliest form of all.  
Brave men were spellbound by her glance,  
And suppliants for her hand in dance.  
But oh! in gems and laces dressed,  
With ripe red roses on her breast,  
Her charms must not be sung, but guessed!

But mine—it is the doleful strain,  
Such youth and beauty all in vain,  
By Love allured, betrayed, and slain.  
Oh death in Youth, as I rehearse  
Her life, it almost seems at times,  
That Youth is oft the greatest curse,  
And loving, oft the worst of crimes.  
Alas! how very close they dwell  
To Love, the coasts of heaven and hell,  
Like cliffs, which scarce a step divides;  
One scarred, and bleak, and lightning rent,  
A drear inhospitable ascent;  
The other, down a streamlet glides,  
And carpeted with moss and flowers,  
Invites to sweet luxurious hours  
That flit in dreamy rapture by,  
Like white clouds in a sunny sky!



They met at opera and ball  
 Which first I cannot now recall.  
 Enough for him that she was fair,  
 And he,—he had that dashing air  
     She read of gallants in Romance;  
 And grace,—oh call him debonnair,—  
     The neatest waltzer in the dance,  
 Small hands, jet curls and eyes of flame,  
 A pose the gods of old might claim;  
 A voice that thrilled her beating heart  
 And gave Love's bow its keenest dart;  
 And then, Othello-like, he told  
 Such traveler's tales of prowess bold,  
 She hung with breathless interest on  
 The accents of her paragon,  
 And clothed him with the ideal grace  
 That eyes of Love alone could trace.  
 And she, who had been till that hour  
 As passionless as some white flower,  
 Like buds, new opened by the sun,  
 Felt Love's electric current run  
 Through every pulse that throbbed her being—  
 All breathing, thinking, feeling, seeing—  
 And ripened her who lately stood  
 A child, to perfect womanhood.  
 The angels envy it above,—  
 A virgin's first and only love!

Oh Love, young Love, the charm alone  
     Of Adam's paradise is thine!  
 The joy of joy he hath not known

## The Queen of the Islands

Who hath not found thee all divine.  
 He hath not lived, or breathes in vain,  
 Who ne'er hath felt thy amorous pain  
 Through his vibrating pulses stealing,—  
 New hope, new joy, new life, revealing.  
 The sun by day, the stars by night,  
 For thee shine with a brighter light.  
 The wave, the sky it mirrors, too,  
 Spread out with a diviner blue.  
 The light-hung leaves, the conscious flowers  
 Are love-thrilled in the forest bowers;  
 But when fond heart beats close to heart,  
 Earth, heaven, hell, are things apart.  
 There is no past, no future—now  
 Is all their raptured thoughts allow.  
 With heaven in the clinging kiss,  
     The close embrace, the conscious flesh,  
 The quickening breath, clasped hands,—I wis  
     When this old Earth was young and fresh,  
 That Adam ceased, indeed, to grieve,  
     If by a thought of Eden crossed,  
 And whispered to enraptured Eve,  
     “ It was a world well lost.”

She was an orphan—born co-heir  
 To Wealth, bequeathed a guardian's care;  
     Of further kin she was bereft  
     Save one,—an older brother left  
 With her a fine estate to share.  
 But Neville was estranged from her  
 By distance, life, and character,

His tutors, and his college days,  
Had swerved their lives in different ways.  
They parted children, chilled with tears,  
In thinking of the severing years—  
But ranked, long ere they met again,  
With women, she, and he, with men;  
And when again they saw each other,  
She marveled if to kiss her brother;  
And to her lips he offered his,  
In a perfunctionary kiss.  
And yet it pleased his natural pride,  
When men debated charms, to hear  
His sister's beauty, far and near,  
Acknowledged, praised, and deified.  
And she exulted in the fame  
That gathered 'round her brother name:  
His record at the college oar,  
The several medals that he wore;  
And though pride grew a fairer growth,  
It was a feeling, not beyond  
A fond regard, and still, with both,  
Of each more proud than fond.

But now Love's hour had taught her more  
Than ten long years had done before;  
For her, the ball had lost its charm,  
Except to hold her lover's arm;  
And wanting him, the tardy day  
In lone impatience crept away;  
For absence, is to Love as Death,  
Except that after mortal breath,

## The Queen of the Islands

We cannot meet as we have met.  
And none can tell what changes wait  
In that unknown, eternal state,  
Which hearts of flesh would here regret.

But nightly, clasping hand in hand,  
They strolled along the glistening sand,  
Or hidden from Intrusion's reach  
Sat on the wave kissed beach.  
Alone—that perfect heaven of love,  
With nothing to distract or mar,  
The interminable sky, above,  
Aglow with many a star,  
The interminable sea, around,  
Its lapping waves, the loyal bound  
Of the charmed world in which they dwelt.  
What song can sing the joy they felt?  
When just to feel heart throb 'gainst heart,  
To feel Love's warm breath on the face,  
To stroke love's hair, to stand apart  
For breath, to kiss and to embrace  
His pillowed head on her soft breast,  
Were rapture never yet expressed.  
Oh, even heaven can hardly be  
A place of deeper ecstasy!  
So fled a rapturous July.  
Alas! how fast such moments fly.

'Twas night in August's glorious prime.  
Muriel sat in her boudoir  
And watched the clouds of twilight climb

High o'er the evening star.  
 The room was one she loved the best,  
 And suited well to such a guest,  
 No paper on the walls was hung,  
 But purple plush that lightly swung,  
 When through the lattice stealing  
 The breezes from the honey bowers  
 Swept laden with the breath of flowers,  
 From inlaid floor to ceiling.  
 A scented fountain, banked with bloom,  
 Stood in the centre of the room;  
 Luxurious chairs, in satin lined,  
 A soft divan, where she reclined  
 In dishabille, her robe of white  
 Of silk and lace scarce hid from sight  
 Her shoulders, bare and white as milk,  
 Save where the veins, like blue threads of silk  
 Ran o'er them toward each ivory globe  
 Lace cinctured, and beneath her robe,  
 Her feet peeped forth like shining snow,  
 Or marble sculptured long ago.

The dew fell chill, the hour was late,  
 And yet she by the oriel sate;  
 For o'er her soul gloomed dark and chill,  
 A vague presentiment of ill.  
 Long had she sought to find repose,  
 But all in vain, her dark eyes close  
 Their weary lids, the gates of sleep,  
 Refused the drowsy god to keep,  
 While o'er her hung the shadowy weight,

## The Queen of the Islands

The forecast, as she feared, of Fate.  
A casual eye at length she turned  
To where Heaven's host of watchfires burned,  
When like a torch flung from the height,  
She saw a shot star fade in night.  
"The stars," she murmured, "in the sky  
Betoken sorrow from on high!"

A moment scarce had passed, since she  
Pronounced the dismal augury,  
When leaping through the casement lightly,  
And hatless, spotted, too, with blood,  
Beside her couch her lover stood.  
And in the moonlight, shining brightly,  
She saw him place his finger tips  
Adjuring silence on his lips.  
"Nay, love, be not alarmed," he cried,  
"Though in this reeking guise you see  
One who must ere the change of tide,  
Be far from love and thee.  
Oh, but for this I did not dare  
To trespass on your privacy,  
Save that I was too well aware,  
We cannot meet when once I flee."

"We cannot meet!"—the blush of shame,  
That crimsoning o'er her forehead came,  
Was blanched as white as palsied fear,  
As this dread message smote her ear.  
"Alas, I've feared an hour like this!  
For surely, Heaven never yet,

Gave mortals such a perfect bliss,  
As we have shared since first we met!  
Yet why did Heaven allow the stroke!  
For every morning, as I woke,  
I asked me, 'Is it, is it real?'

And doubting, 'Am I loved alone?'  
And just as I began to feel

That you, in sooth, were all my own,  
You come with such a tale as this,  
And poison every spring of bliss.  
Oh, if your love was wholly feigned,  
The pastime of an idle hour,  
And my affection is disdained,

Because my peace is in your power,  
Grant me this boon before we part:  
To send to death this trusting heart,  
That gave you power to curse or bless,  
But throbbed but for your happiness.  
Aye, gave you all that ere was given  
By woman, even the hope of heaven!  
In mercy, slay then ere you fly,  
And I will bless you as I die."

He moved within the moon's broad glare,  
And stood between her and the light;  
And brushing wide his matted hair,  
A clotted wound displayed to sight.  
"Forgive me," sobbed she softly crying,  
"I chide you while you perhaps are dying."  
Her bare white arms she threw around  
His form, and fondly kissed the wound;

## The Queen of the Islands

But he unclasped the rapt embrace,  
And sought a less conspicuous place.  
“Nay, fear not death from this,” he said,  
“The man whose indecisive hand  
Gave me this wound, lies stiff and dead  
Upon the salt sea sand.  
He swore we never should be wed,  
And when I laughed his word to scorn,  
Vile taunts and charges foul he made,  
Not easy to be borne.  
And when his gibe I calmly stood,  
Because I would not shed his blood,  
He dogged my footsteps, till to-night  
He found me by the sea, alone,  
And forced me, in the desperate fight,  
To take his life or lose my own.  
Oh love, acquit me of the blame  
And ask not, ask me not, his name.  
But the discovering Morn is near,  
I cannot, must not, tarry here!  
'Twere death to me, and shame to thee!  
Farewell, dear love, I must to sea,  
Behold my ship—it waits for me.”

She looked across the waning night,  
And saw the sailor's beckoning light.  
“Wait love,” she answered, “what to me  
Is shame, or death, or aught but thee?  
Aye, let the tongue of scandal move  
The vampire of a woman's fame!  
What care I, if I have thy love,



And thou dost cherish me the same.  
 Nor false to virtue shall I be,  
 But true to love and true to thee.  
 What woman could of virtue boast,  
     Of virtue worthy of the name,  
 If, when love needed her the most,  
     She fled for fear of shame.  
 Nay, grant me time my dress to change,  
 And where you go I too will range,  
 And share your fate whate'er it be,  
 To Earth's most drear extremity."

He clasped her fiercely to his breast.  
 "Dear love," he said, "thus ever rest."  
 Continuing "I indeed am thine,  
 As fully as your pledge is mine;  
 Then haste together let us flee,  
 And once upon the trackless sea,  
 I know where a fair island lies,  
 Where love may find a paradise;  
 For lapped by unfrequented seas,  
 There is no sorrow nor disease,  
 A fairy waste of flowers and trees,  
 Where buds and butterflies and bees  
 Mar not great Nature's loving plan,  
 In groves all unprofaned by man.  
 There blessed with all that love can give,  
 In that fair Eden shall we live,  
 There by the distant world unknown,  
 Live for each other's love alone."

## The Queen of the Islands

Twice seven nights across the sea  
They fled, when at the fortnight's dawn,  
The sweet land-breeze was seaward borne,  
Like siren breaths in dreams of Ease;  
But where is he, the vessel's lord,  
And the sweet bride he brought aboard?  
In vain the seamen seek their face,  
In vain they call, there is no trace,  
No more than if the 'whelming deep  
Should o'er their sinking bodies sweep.  
A lifeboat, missing, too, since dawn,  
Betrays the aid by which they've gone;  
And the good ship sailed on:  
To other shores, to other ports,  
More populous where trade resorts,  
And left the fugitives' fate to be  
Another mystery of the sea.

But not to us—propitious Fate  
Smiled o'er their daring flight;  
And ere the hushed descent of star-clothed Night,  
Their dripping oar-blades grate  
Upon a beach, that sheening lies  
One of a score of isles, washed by these distant seas,  
Where undisturbed by man, the seabird cries  
Unto his mate, and nests among the trees;  
Where luscious fruits of the Hesperides,  
In this neglected Paradise,  
Have been the gorgeous sunbird's prey,  
Until this Adam with his trusting Eve,  
The busy outside world behind them leave

Upon Love's pilgrim way.  
Reversed in Fate to him of old,  
Who lost an Eden by his love,  
This modern Adam, quite as bold,  
Found his, within the myrtle grove.

## CANTO SECOND

Thoughtful as one who, perchance, for his life, might  
with Nature yet wrestle,  
Arms and the artisan's tools he had stored and removed  
from the vessel.  
So in a virginal grove, on the edge of the tree-guarded  
highlands,  
Built he a love bower and crowned her with blossoms  
the Queen of the Islands.  
Floored it with sweet scented woods, and the sides of  
the roof of the chamber,  
Over the windows and doorways, bright red-berried  
vines taught to clamber.  
Fish, every morning he caught her, and shell-fish  
brought fresh from the sea-shore,  
Eggs, and the young of the seabird, captured with nets  
from the lee-shore;  
Sentinel trees by their dwelling provided them nuts and  
bananas,  
Maize and a species of yam, he discovered wild grown  
in savannas.  
Bright rose the sun in the morning and brightly he sank  
o'er the billow,—

## The Queen of the Islands

Life to them both seemed as fair as the cloud-curtains  
fringing his pillow.

But gradually to Muriel,  
There came a change most sad to see.  
It was not Love's satiety,  
Nor that she was not loved as well;  
It was not fear, nor sadder yet,  
Useless remorse, or vain regret.  
But o'er her spirit, seemed to roll  
That awful sickness of the soul,  
For which by the stern law of Fate,  
There is no cure or opiate.  
Her lover saw with boding heart  
How, day by day, the dying rose  
Grew paler on her cheeks, as those  
By awful sorrow set apart  
For heaven, and an early death.  
Then feebler came and went her breath,  
As perfume, dying with the flower,  
But loveliest in her mortal hour.  
Her eye, so spiritually bright,  
And shining with the heavenly light,  
That with the smile her features wore,  
She seemed of heaven, long before  
Her chastened spirit took its flight,  
To regions of eternal light.  
She made no murmur or complaint,  
But suffered as the gentlest saint,  
Whom God, in every ebbing breath,  
Is kissing slowly into death.

The only care with which she grieved,  
 For him so soon to be bereaved.  
 All else of earth had ceased to move  
 Her interest, or awake her love.  
 The flowers she used to tend, her eye  
 Now passed indifferently by;  
 The fawn whom she was wont to stroke,  
 No recognition now awoke;  
 But he for whom she dared all shame,  
 Alone, 'twixt her and heaven came.

“ It is not that I love you less,  
 “ Dear heart,” she said, “ because I die;  
 But oh, the heavy thoughts that press  
 Upon me when you are not nigh!  
 This body is too weak to bear  
 The dread weight of its soul sick care.  
 Oh 'tis not in a man to guess  
 A woman's heart of weariness,  
 To long to rest your arms within,  
 Yet doubt if Heaven counts it sin  
 To nestle on your breast to sleep,  
 Yet in my very dreams, to weep  
 Lest God should view with frowning eye,  
 And scorn me for unchastity.  
 To feel of all my childhood's friends,  
 Not one will judge my course aright,  
 Or think, but for unworthy ends  
 I joined you in your flight.  
 To know that everywhere my name,

## The Queen of the Islands

A by-word is for woman's shame.  
Oh though your love far, far transcends  
The world's esteem, the love of friends,  
Yet, ever when I am alone,  
My cowed heart hears an undertone;  
And sharper than a fatal spear,  
The words of calumny reach my ear.  
Oh nothing can avert my doom,  
Nor give me rest save in the tomb."

So gently and unselfishly,  
Upon a sweet day's fitting eve,  
While lingering in the upper sky,  
Th' enamored sun seemed loath to leave.  
Even as the twilight's fading ray,  
Her loving spirit fled away.  
Alas Bereaved! the flower you see  
Beloved by her, since culled by thee,  
Are longer lived than she!  
What boots for stricken grief, to hold  
The long, white hand, so limp and cold,  
Or lips bereaved on lips to press,  
That feel not, know not, Love's caress!  
Oh go, before the morning light  
And hide your dead from Nature's sight.  
To her belongs the gladsome sky,  
The careless flowers that mock the eye,  
The birds that flit in full song by,  
The odorous trees, the frolicsome deep,  
That ever smile howe'er men weep!

And he, in after days again,  
 Was seen among his fellow men.  
 Unknown his past, though some strange tale  
     Of rescue, from a desert isle,  
 By some wind-buffed, straying sail,  
     Made the wise sceptics smile.  
 But still a man of solitude,  
 Or if his alien steps intrude  
 The scenes of gay frivolity,  
 His presence bade their pleasure flee.  
 Even at the Club, when he attends  
 He told no tales, and sought no friends;  
 And more than half his year was spent  
 Self exiled on the Continent.

Time passed, and with it died remark  
     At the sad Sphinx of Clubs—none joked  
     The silent man who sat and smoked,  
 Or drank his cocktail after dark,  
 And left there with a quiet nod,  
 As to his hermitage he trod;  
 For thus a nine-days' wondering  
 Becomes at last the usual thing.  
 Till, once vouched by a member's name,  
 A stranger to the club room came,  
 And startled, stood as half bespelled  
 At whom his wondering eyes beheld:  
 Then from them glanced a flash of fire  
 Of vicious anger, mad desire,  
 While from the startled clubman's eyes  
 A look shot forth of glad surprise.

## The Queen of the Islands

“And art thou living,” he exclaimed,  
“Thank God! I then shall die unblamed!”  
While from the stranger “Now, at last,  
I shall have vengeance for the Past.  
Seducer and abductor, too,  
This is the day of Fate for you!  
My sister, tell me where is she?”

A boy once stood before your wrath,—  
You left him dying in your path,  
It is a man now asks of thee,  
With soul to dare and arm with strength  
To strike for his revenge at length.”

The other answered courteously,  
“At a fit time, if thou wilt waive  
The present, I will answer thee  
The satisfaction thou dost crave.  
These gentlemen can hardly feel  
So interested in our weal  
As to forgive us the disgrace  
To make their rooms a brawling place.”

“Nay, answer now,” the stranger cried,  
“Let them our grounds of strife decide.  
My sister, tell me, where is she?  
A brother asks, demands, of thee.”

Again he said “I cannot bear  
To here unveil the wounds I wear,  
Nor to the careless public cast  
The sacred legacy of the Past.  
Another time, a fitter place.”



“ Perhaps this, if you can feel disgrace,  
Will change your feelings in the case,”  
And Neville smote him in the face.

Continuing, “ Here, behold my card !

I pledge to thee the satisfaction  
Of gentlemen for this—an action ;  
That but for just cause were debarred,  
If you are not too great a coward  
To ask it, for the insults showered  
Upon you, vile abductor, cur,  
And perhaps of her, the murderer ! ”

The exile’s cheeks flushed with the flame  
Of sudden anger, and of shame.

Then white as with great strength of will,  
He held in leash his temper still,  
And answered quietly—“ I’ll send

With due authority, a friend  
To-morrow, seeking from your hand  
Th’ atonement Honor must demand.  
Bear witness, I sought not thy hurt,  
But strove th’ extremity to avert ;  
Thou would’st not have it so,—if shed,  
The guilty blood be on thy head.  
And so I wish you all ‘ Good Night.’ ”  
Then rising, disappeared from sight.

The morrow dawned—a lovely day,  
With grace to awe the lust to slay ;  
And yet near by the town, where stood  
The remnant of an ancient wood,

## The Queen of the Islands

Encircled by its guarding trees,  
Whose murmuring leaves breathed vows of peace,  
The two combatants, fully armed  
With deadly weapons, stood uncharmed,  
Though Nature's every sight and voice  
Proclaimed the evil of their choice:  
The laughing sky, the insect life,  
With sweet suggestions, praising Life,  
And songs of birds and wild flowers breath,—  
They only, madly, thought of Death.

Some sense of this the seconds felt,  
And strove their obdurate hearts to melt.  
Th' insulted e'en agreed to be  
Appeased by an apology;  
But the aggressor turned to state  
That blood alone could slake his hate,  
And added, too, such taunt and scoff,  
The seconds' words of peace were banned,  
They could not call the duel off,  
But measured each his spot to stand.

The enemies then took their place,  
And turned a moment face to face,  
With upraised pistols waiting there  
Until the echoing air should bear  
The fateful count, whose final word  
The death of one or both incurred.  
The brother shot, the bullet sped  
And barely missed his foeman's head.  
His keen desire, his hate's wild flame

Deflected, perhaps, his accurate aim.  
An oath he muttered 'neath his breath,  
Then bravely faced, expected death.

The other with his pistol held  
Still firm, no bolt of fate impelled,—  
“ I love the memory of my wife  
Too well, to take her brother's life,”  
He said, “ I believe her prayer in bliss  
Has caused his murderous tube to miss,  
And now that I have proven here  
I am no bondman unto fear,  
His life is mine,—that life I spare ! ”  
And fired his shot into the air.  
“ A humming bird just hovered there  
To sip that shattered flower,” he said,  
“ To prove how well my bullet sped,  
Investigate and find it dead.”

A tiny, headless thing it was,  
A shimmering opal on the grass,  
Now golden green, now ruby flame,  
That proved how true his nerve and aim.

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Two men, two friends inseparable,  
Who share Life's pleasures and Life's ill.  
Oh, blest is Friendship everywhere !  
Life's cordial in a world of care,  
But blest indeed whene'er it grows  
Between two souls that once were foes !

## The Queen of the Islands

The feud that parted them allayed,  
The keystone of its arch is made,  
And naked soul to soul displayed  
Binds like the magnet to the ore  
That can be separate no more.  
So these were linked and firmly held,  
By one devotion that dispelled  
All doubt and fear and selfishness,  
And more indulged, grew more to bless;  
And that devotion was the love  
They bore the sainted one above,  
Who dying in her beauty's bloom,  
Ere Age one youthful charm had harmed,  
Still shone to Memory o'er her tomb,  
With all her loveliness embalmed.  
Like some fair star that to the eye  
Shines changeless in the evening sky,  
Their greatest joy in mind to trace  
The memory of her grace and face,  
To live in amity and troth,  
Such as would please her gentle heart,  
Who living truly loved them both  
And grieved because they were apart.  
True friendship where no jealousy,  
Nor envious thought could ever be.  
And which the years in passing round  
With closer ties more closely bound,  
To which the living hope was given,  
Of rapt reunion all in Heaven!

# The Bride of Bar-Cocab



# THE BRIDE OF BAR-COCAB

## CANTO FIRST

Groves of figs and olive wood,  
Growing where Bitthera stood  
Overshadowed by the fanes  
Of Jerusalem's higher plains—  
Once a fortress, which along  
Hills then refluent with song,  
Held the mightiest patriot band  
Israel could to arms command,  
Since the Roman laid the shrine  
Low in ashes, though divine.  
Further, semi-circling high,  
Moab's mountains bound the eye,  
Forming, blue, with cloud caps fleeced,  
The horizon of the East.  
Nearer in their shadow seen,  
Drifts the desert bleak between;  
Westward when the eye has passed  
Of uneven hills, the last  
Slopes the land, once white with grain,  
In a long descending plain,  
Gently to that tideless sea  
Which has e'er refused to be  
Subject for a single hour  
To the moon's magnetic power,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Though in all the world beside  
She is mistress of the tide.

Whate'er spot on God's green Earth  
Gives a noble action birth,  
Where it e'er has glistened red  
With the blood for Freedom shed,  
It is holy and divine,  
Sacred as a haunted shrine.  
Poets should its glory sing,  
History with its praises ring,—  
Yet Bitthera is a word  
Which of you have ever heard?  
Although there a conquered race  
Sold to slavery and disgrace,  
Crushed by chains of weary years,  
Vassal life and exile tears,  
Still to heroism woke,  
Chafing e'er beneath, the yoke.  
Faltering Freedom, loth to flee  
The clime of her nativity,  
Tarried there in hearts of flame,  
Till the final rally came—  
On that very field arrayed,  
There the fond attempt was made,  
Yet the vandalism of Time,  
Famine's dearth and despot's crime  
Have not left a vestige there  
Of their courage or despair.  
E'en tradition lingers not  
In the poor neglected spot



To inspire my feeble verse,  
Half its glory to rehearse.

Still I see through mists of Time  
Something of the scene sublime,  
Though the pagan Roman's horde  
Strove with his victorious sword  
To erase the memory  
Of the fallen though the free.  
Though the Moslem who to-day  
Holds their ancient home his prey,  
Cannot feel that Patriotism  
Ever is a hallowed chrism,  
Still each high and worthy deed  
Harvests an immortal seed,  
Which will surely find the hour  
When 'twill blossom into flower,  
Or if Earth denies it sod,  
'Twill bloom around the throne of God!

Eve is near,—Day lingering still  
Trails in beauty o'er the hill,  
To dispel with lovelier light  
Half the darkness of the night.  
Soft the twilight breeze is sprung,  
Rustling leaves but lightly sung,—  
Wafting as it flies along

Incense from the wild-grown flowers,  
Echoing the bird's last song.

Floating through the woody bowers,  
Dew is fallen on bud and leaf

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Fairer in their mimic grief,  
While the mellow moon is bright  
With no cloud to veil its light,  
And the stars on Heaven's coast  
Silently array their host ;  
Twinkling still, each unto each,  
Such high thoughts as baffle speech,  
Shining softness o'er the hour.  
Oh, who has loved nor felt its power !

In a bower, by sheltering trees,  
    Veiled from bold Intrusion's gaze,  
Strange the sight my vision sees—  
    A man and woman—through the haze,  
He, of sad upbraiding face,  
She, a form of winsome grace,  
Like a Dryad of the place !  
Far they've left behind I ween  
Every dear familiar scene,  
Else there had not been the sweat  
Which the charger's flank has wet—  
That tied near for instant aid,  
Crops at ease the grassy glade,  
Yet so strongly limbed, at need  
Well would prove a thing of speed.

Lo, an open helmet now,  
    Near them, as they sit, I see,  
    As if turned oppressive, he  
Had removed it from his brow.  
By a shining coat of mail

Snugly is his breast embraced,  
And the moonlight glitters pale  
On the greaves, too, tightly laced  
That are 'round his legs arrayed.  
By his helmet, too, are laid  
Spanish swords of finest blade,  
While as ready for his grasp  
A pilum, such as Romans clasp;  
But, in sooth, all seem alien  
At such a time, in such a scene.

But not alone in garb I trace  
Lack of harmony with the place.  
Lo! the shade upon his face!  
That despite the lady there,  
Shows the shadows of despair,  
Hopelessness, regret and woe.  
Livid, like a blighting blow,  
On his face and heaving breast  
Even a passion chaos pressed!  
Yet o'ercoming, chastening down  
Hasty word and rising frown,  
Still the gentleness of Love  
Sorrow's tempest cannot move;  
Though he quivered at each word  
Of th' avowal he had heard,  
That unto his boding seemed  
The knell of all he hoped or dreamed!

Can it be that Beauty rare  
Has a soul within less fair?

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Nay, by that 'fair, melting eye,  
Full of gracious sympathy,  
Duty has her heart distrained  
Of the secret it contained—  
Mourning all, it had to speak;  
But that dewy eye and cheek  
Wore an added loveliness  
In its beauty of distress!  
Oh, those radiant eyes were gems!  
Jewels of the sapphire's class,  
And those delicate cheeks were flowers  
That all roses would surpass,—  
Rare, red roses on their stems,  
Two, twin roses in the bowers.  
Even to him, here shone a grace  
More than human in her face,  
Such as might a prophet limn  
Of th' enraptured seraphim!

“Ruth of all my foes,” he said,  
“Thee I have the most to dread.  
Thou hast done my heart more harm  
Than the Roman power or guile.  
Victory loses half its charm  
Unrewarded by thy smile!  
True, they say, who call thy love,  
Woman! but a fickle thing  
Which a fancy first can move,  
Then as quickly put to wing.”

“Nay my love is not estranged,  
Though my early faith is changed,”

Said the lady "faithfully  
 Beats my heart alone for thee.  
 Oh, thou canst not know the pain  
 Of my restless soul and brain,  
 Ere my mind and heart and will  
 Half won, half rebellious still,  
 Made surrender to the Creed  
 That awakes thy bitter screed.  
 Darling, scoffer, as thou art,  
 Let its Cross subdue thy heart!"

"God of Abraham forbid  
 Less the sin that Israel did  
 In the desert when they prayed  
 To the idol Aaron made!  
 Strange the humor in my spleen,  
 Now to praise the Nazarene—  
 I, who doomed to felon's death,  
 Many a follower of His faith.  
 Urge no more, th' apostate's shame  
 Ne'er shall blur Bar-Cocab's fame,  
 Israel's God once more in grace  
 Will behold His chosen race.  
 'Tis our sins and cowardice  
 Bar us from the Paradise  
 Promised David's seed at last,  
 By our ancient seers forecast,  
 Joshua and Gideon!  
 May I be their worthy son!  
 But whatever fate be mine,  
 I shall never, never shrink!

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

One the life I can resign,  
Should my trampled country sink  
Deeper into serfdom, I  
Rather in her service die,  
Than to live another day  
Slave unto the heathen's sway.  
Come unto our tent, return,  
But hide thy secret in thy breast,  
Lest e'en I could not arrest  
The vengeance I alone would mourn."

The lady rose irresolute,—  
Leaned her head upon his breast  
For a moment, shamed and mute  
By her love and grief possessed.  
"Dearest, oh, too dear thou art,  
Let me read thine inmost heart—  
Since my childhood's faith is changed,  
Is thy love from me estranged?  
If so, send me from thee now,  
But not in words the thought avow.  
I could never hear thy lips  
Speak Affection's harsh eclipse!  
There is a solitary place  
For women of the heavenly grace,  
Where I may renounce fore'er  
All the outside world and care.  
Thither let me go alone  
Nor hear thy heart's dread altered tone,  
God will guide me as I flee—  
Jesu, Mary, succor me!"

Wild he rained upon her lips  
 Kisses passionate and fast!—  
 As the summer torrent slips  
 When the Winter ice is past  
 Furrowing the mountain side.  
 So his love surged o'er his pride!  
 "Nay the love I did avow  
 Changeless was, is changeless now.  
 Yet its very constancy  
 Gives a deeper pang to me—  
 For I dreamed thee, by my side,  
 Counsellor as well as bride.  
 E'er my star that led me on  
 From victory to victory.  
 E'er thy smile the battle won—  
 And bade the fears of Sorrow flee,  
 And in my prophetic ear,  
 I heard the shouts of triumph near,  
 Till the plastic present seemed  
 Even the future that I dreamed—  
 Israel in that glorious hour  
 Had resumed her regal power,—  
 Splendid was the time and scene,  
 I her king, and thou, my queen,  
 Crowned with benedictions given,  
 Instruments thus blessed of Heaven "

"Oh, Bar-Cocab! surely know  
 All thy dreams must end in woe,  
 Fair howe'er the visions seem,  
 Vainer still e'en than a dream,—

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Small thy army at the most  
To the Roman's battled host—  
Even more unequal still  
In their hardihood and skill.  
Vain the hope of aught to be  
But disaster dire to thee.  
To what haven canst thou flee?  
Since the world has no retreat  
But dost kneel at Cæsar's feet,  
Even Death—a soldier's fame—  
Thee would only veil with shame,  
Since though aspiration high  
Nerves thy soul to win or die,  
Still the world has placed her ban  
On thee as an outlawed man—  
As a brigand chief indeed,  
Whose sole aim is lust of greed,  
And its stigma brands thee, still  
Ignorant of thy nobler will.”

“ That my men are outlaws—true,  
So defamed by serfs of Rome—  
Yet they only seek their due.

From the spoilers of their home,  
Driven in exile from their land,  
Clasping ne'er a friendly hand.  
And the soil they lend to-day  
Perhaps to-morrow rends away  
Even life—the tyrant's hate,  
Holds no rights inviolate.  
For the Jew at any hour



Lives the prey of lawless power.  
Lower in a Roman scale  
Than the cattle of their sale.  
What care I for life or fame,  
Since this is my country's shame?—  
Oh! glance it over from this height  
'Neath the moon's unclouded light  
And feel the worship of the sight!  
See our nation's sacred fanes  
That the heathen's curse distrains!  
See the glorious fields and hills  
Which a foreign despot tills!  
Who would not with rapture bleed  
To behold our people freed,  
From his Godless power, yea die,  
With triumph in his closing eye.  
Oh! my spirit thrills to stand,  
    Gazing on these holy haunts,  
Where in shrines, divinely planned  
    Earth from Heaven heard response  
My disherited fatherland!  
Which shall yet God's epic be,  
    Oh, e'en now seems floating there,  
    Spirits in the viewless air  
Calling Israel to be free!

"Paradise even in neglect,  
    Still thy widow's weeds are fair,  
Though no loving hand has decked  
    For long years thy disrepair.  
Partial Nature strives to veil

Still, the wreck of Ruin's trail.  
Like a prodigal she strews  
Lavishly, and still renews  
With a glad improvidence  
Every gift the Earth presents.  
Here the cedar and the pine,  
Pomegranate, apple, vine,  
Many a rill, and lake, and river,  
Here their finny wealth deliver,  
Many a mountain here divides  
Riches bulging from its sides,  
Many a valley's arable charms  
Fertile as a world of farms,  
Many a grassy plain here girds  
Pastures for a thousand herds,  
Many a forest rich in birds.  
Here the fairy hues of flowers  
Carpet meadows, copse and bowers,  
Made for happy, happy lovers.  
Many a painted insect hovers,  
Many a gemmy fly uncovers  
When the starry dews fall damp  
Like the stars a twinkling lamp,  
All that in all zones appear,  
Cold, or warm, or far, or near,  
Nature limns its duplicate here.

“These are all that cannot die,  
Else of glory and of grace,  
All have faded without trace  
Like rainbows of a summer sky.

Art or beauty of her own  
Shows no vestige, not a stone  
Stands, where once her temple stood,  
Sanctifying solitude.  
Voices of her seers are hushed,  
Spirit of her sons is crushed.  
Ne'er against Oppression's rod,  
Wreak they now the wrath of God,  
Save some bandit on the hill  
Feebly strikes for vengeance still.  
Mirth and song are heard no more,  
Feast nor dance along her shore,  
For Man's deadliest enemies  
Have been her's to curse and seize.  
Battle, famine, fire, disease,  
These her heritage of ill,  
These the foes that crush her still!

“ Not till Memory loses sway  
Bid me turn from Vengeance way.  
When I can forget the wrongs  
That my recollection throngs,—  
When I fawn upon the Power  
That has brought this servile hour,  
Then if Justice bids me live,  
Come and ask me to forgive—  
But may blackest curses rest  
On the coward traitor's breast,  
That would for a moment turn  
Could it make Oppression mourn,  
Or the time and chance forsake

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Hatred in its blood to slake.  
Heaven turn from his prayer to save!  
Earth deny the wretch a grave!  
And the powers of hell arise  
To prolong his agonies!  
Till the fiends shrink in dismay  
From one more accursed than they!"

Mounting both,—their path they made  
Through the stilly, starry glade,  
Both in silence. Bright as noon,  
Rode, full orb'd, the argent moon,  
And the ruddy shield of Mars  
Shone conspicuous of the stars,—  
But they all unnoticed shone  
To the riders hastening on,  
Who as little reck'd of flowers,  
Rudely trampled in the bowers,—  
Phlox in pink-white beauty set,  
Asphodel and mignonette,  
And the wild rose torn aloof  
By their chargers' flying hoof.  
Yet the solemn spiritual calm,  
All pervading, worked a charm;  
And her faith spread wings to soar  
Unto hopes ne'er dared before  
Till she view'd him snatched from death  
Even a convert to her Faith.  
Slowly, too, his heart's distress,  
Lost his venom'd bitterness,  
And again he seemed to see

In his plans the augury  
Of a second Maccabee!

Th' offspring of a priestly sire,  
Whose own father had beheld  
Israel's hope by Titus knelled  
And her liberties expire,  
And her temples wreathed in fire,  
And, still battling 'gainst her doom,  
In her service found a tomb.  
This Bar-Cocab's early years  
Heard and pondered o'er with tears,  
Swearing then to dedicate  
Unto Rome eternal hate.  
And many a village given to flame,  
Many a deed of fearful name,  
Many a tax and treasure sent  
To th' imperial government,  
Spoiled by his brigands, attest  
Vengeance sleeps not in his breast.

Short his years of middle age,  
Yet his mind, matured and sage  
For such years, though few their span,  
Change the youth into the man.  
Prematurely grey his hair,—  
Tall his form, and straight, but spare,  
Stern his glances, and the trace  
On anxiety on his face,  
Where the wrinkles deep appear  
Of all feelings, save of fear,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Though his laugh when he unbent  
Had no sound of merriment !

Soon they reach the picket line,  
Halt and give the countersign.  
Far as e'er the eye could reach,  
    Camped along the broad champaign  
Like the sands upon the beach  
    Stretched the tented host of men.  
Circling all, an earthen mound  
Five feet high, made ample bound,  
On whose close filled height arrayed,  
Rose a dangerous palisade,  
Guarded on the inner side  
By the ditches deep and wide.  
Prominent by its greater height  
Stood Bar-Cocab's tent in sight,  
In the central space, and round  
Others had their proper bound.  
Here the footman, by his spear,  
Horsemen there, and chargers near,  
And the engines further rear,  
Where stern vigil did secure  
Baggages and furniture ;—  
All in as exact array  
Even as Cæsar might display.

With a sudden glance of pride  
Each detail Bar-Cocab eyed  
While the glad attendants there  
Rendered every needed care.

She then to her private tent—  
He to his, his pathway bent,  
And of armor there undressed,  
Wooed an hour, e'er winning rest;  
But the lady's faithful maid  
Scarcely could conclude her aid,  
Ere she saw her eyelids close  
Softly as a babe's repose.

## CANTO SECOND

Sweet the fairy hour when Day,  
Leaning o'er the slumbering Night,  
Has two minds—to flee away  
Or to wake her with the light.  
Somewhere from the East, a breeze  
Whispers to the nodding trees,  
And as if they dreamed of bees,  
All the blossoms move in sleep.  
Perhaps a bird with timid cheep  
Wakes a moment in surprise,  
Looking 'round with sleepy eyes,  
Just a little moment listening,  
Sees the paling stars aglistening,  
Knows the Dawn is drawing nigh;  
Yet again he veils his eye  
With his head beneath his wing,  
Till the Morning's trumpets ring,  
And high in the Orient sky  
Day's advancing banners fly.

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Sweet the fairy hour, for then  
Sleep seems best to weary men.  
To the mourner, then, if e'er,  
Slumber comes to ease his care.  
To the hind, that ploughs the lea,  
To the sailor, on the sea,—  
To the soldier, then it seems  
Comes the sweetest hour of dreams,  
Just before the daylight breaking,—  
Just before the time of waking.

So upon Bar-Cocab pressed  
Balmy sleep, refreshing rest—  
When there swelled a shout so loud  
Thunder from the bursting cloud  
Hurtling, echoing, overhead  
Could not sound so deep or dread.  
Quickly as he heard the roar,  
Sprang the chieftain to the door  
On the eastern palisade.  
Lo, a yawning breach betrayed  
Through the fallen wall of earth,  
Whence the echo had its birth;  
But so suddenly the clay  
Fell and in the ditches lay,  
Like it seemed the Earthquake's shock  
More than ram or darted rock;  
And his semi-conscious thought  
Such had deemed the loud report,  
Had he not seen through it poured  
Hundreds of the Roman horde,



Heard the trumpets' deep alarms,  
And the cry, "To arms! to arms!"

A portion of the Jews' command  
Was a straggling motley band  
All untrained.—Of some, the aim,  
Lust of plunder, some, from shame,—  
Men and women, young and fair,  
E'en old age crouched trembling there,  
Who to find a kinder life  
Dared the Battle's awful strife,  
Rather than to bear the mood  
Of their lords in servitude.  
These bore first the Conflict's frown—  
As some landslide crunches down  
From the mountain to the town,  
Or in northern seas the ice  
Towering like a precipice  
Crushes into instant death  
The lorn ship that steers beneath.  
So they fell before the blow  
Of th' infuriate, ruthless foe,  
And turned mad with wild affright  
Like game penned by fire that grows,  
All confused with frantic sight,  
Losing ken of friends from foes,—  
Trampled down a greater host  
Than the enemy's sword could boast.  
Women, children, madly mixed,  
Hoofed to death, by spears transfixed.  
Oh, what savage carnage there,—

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Selfishness urged by despair,  
When nor age nor youth could stay,  
Nor Beauty awe the lust to slay!

Stunned a moment and amazed,  
Cocab at the conflict gazed  
As in doubt; but all might be  
Sleep's disordered reverie.  
Till flung through his open tent  
Fell a pilum, luck'ly spent,  
Still so near its target pressed,  
That it almost grazed his breast.  
Thus admonished, quickly dressing,  
In his armor long delayed,  
Cocab grasped his Spanish blade  
And his pilum in his hand.  
To the front was soon progressing,  
There to take supreme command,  
And win or perish with his band.

With his advent came new life  
To his followers in the strife—  
Who impetuously along  
Rush against the 'whelming throng.  
Many a Roman soldier dies  
As the pilum fiercely flies;  
But so numerous, they withstand,  
And the fight veers hand to hand.  
Broadsword in the sunlight flash  
Red from many a frightful gash,  
While with the Barbarian's mace,

Others still maintain their place,  
Till the field is red with blood,  
Running an ensanguined flood.

Then the cavalry whose host  
Greater numbers Rome could boast,  
Soon became in fierce onslaught  
Driven from where the others fought;  
Meeting in the southern field,—

With vast power the Roman threw  
His dread phalanx on the Jew.  
Who, pledged to rather die than yield,  
Solidly against them wheeled,

Standing firm, though many a horse  
Fled the ranks whose rider reeled

To the Earth a mangled corse.  
Again the deadly charge, again  
The repulse of desperate man,—  
Maddened ranks thinned more and more,  
Men and chargers, dripping gore,  
And again the sickening thud  
Of opposing foes in blood!

Then irregular sallies where  
Now surrendering to despair  
All their hope was in the strife  
Dear to sacrifice each life.  
And in Desperation's mood  
Glut defeat in foemen's blood,  
Till in final rally stood  
Of Bar-Cocab's men but one  
Bloody, reckless and alone!

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Here the Romans ceased their strife,  
Offering to parole his life ;  
But he, scorning them indeed,  
Dashed the rowels in his steed—  
Ere they saw his purpose dread  
He had cleft the leader's head,  
Hesitating still to strike  
Yet another meets the like !  
Ah, so rash, the soul can dare  
In the fury of despair,  
But that blow hath cost him dear,—  
He shall strike no other here !

Cocab's mounted form was seen  
In all quarters of the field,—  
His a charmed life had been ;  
For though many a form had reeled,  
Dying, as the Hebrew passed,  
And his deadily pilum cast  
Scathless still he thundered on  
Whirlwind like, just felt, then gone,  
Till he reached the sheltered tent  
Where his lady love was pent.  
When as if with wings endued  
Lo, she blindly past him, ran  
By two Roman foot pursued.  
Just an instant, like a man  
Turned to stone, then into speed  
Spurring on his foaming steed,  
He was abreast and madly rushed  
His horse upon the first and crushed

With his weapon's furious force  
 The pursuer from his horse—  
 But himself beneath the blow  
 Of the second, tottered low,  
 Who nor stopped to ascertain  
 Whether he were stunned or slain,  
 But pursued with eager pace  
 Her whose beauty lured his chase.

As the ruffian drew more near  
 Even her brain throbbed wild with fear—  
 Still her pulsing agony  
 Winged her speed, that to the eye  
 Lo, her feet appeared to fly,  
 Scarcely seeing where or why,  
 Or choice in any road of blood ;  
 For her fear shod feet to flee  
 Everywhere the horrid flood.  
 This she had not time to think  
 Nor of eyes that seemed to blink  
 At her from the field of Death  
 As she fled with bated breath.  
 Perhaps she passed two living foes  
 With red arms in deadly close,  
 Or perchance a group who turn  
 Cheering as her swift feet spurn  
 The hot ground, or blush for shame  
 As her vile tormentor came ;  
 But to help her none essayed,—  
 Was she not a Jewish maid?

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

What the hour she could not tell—  
Moments in her frenzied fears  
Wore the masks of months and years.  
Distance stretched to many a league,  
Footsore hardship and fatigue—  
Till the landscape seemed to swim  
Into darkness, every limb  
To its utmost tension taxed,  
Quick as eye could wink relaxed,  
And, in her extremity,  
Suddenly palsied seemed to be—  
With despairing shrieks, she fell,  
On her arm his hand was laid,  
On her cheek his breathing played,  
And she dared not scan his face,  
Yet—who spoke those words of grace?  
Was it dreaming, did her ear  
Truthfully the accents hear?  
Words that spoke her danger o'er,  
Words that bade her fear no more,  
Words that sweeter o'er her fell,  
Than in Childhood's sunny dell,  
Welcome after long farewell;  
Or to exile far away  
Voices of his native lay;  
Or fond Beauty's longed for "yes"  
To Love's panting eagerness.

'Twas no dream for bending o'er  
With a frank solicitude,  
Leaned a face whose features wore

Th' impress of a nobler mood—  
Near him stood the caitiff there,  
Even unwilling still to spare,  
Though he sullenly obeyed  
Th' orders that his general made,  
Leaving both at the command  
With his regiment to stand.

“ I'm the Roman Governor!” said  
Her new friend, “ be not dismayed,  
Harm nor fear shall follow thee,  
As my sister shalt thou be—  
'Tis a pleasure to provide  
Escort for thee and a guide  
To my home and safely there  
Thou wilt find the tenderest care.”  
Ere she could reply he gave  
Th' orders to his waiting slave,  
Who found escort soon and horse,  
And in shelter guided them  
Till they reached, in rapid course,  
Safety in Jerusalem.

The strife was o'er—that noonday sun,  
Shining o'er the battle won,  
Cast his beams of yellow light  
On the saddening, sickening sight.  
Hundreds that alive that morn  
Ne'er shall see another born,  
Other hundreds see it glare  
On the field of slaughter there,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Shackled prisoners of Despair!  
Thus all Cocab's save a few  
Who for final safety flew,  
Yet perchance had better died  
Fighting by their comrades' side!

Cocab, whom the Governor sought,  
Was not with the captives brought—  
Nor could any soldier state  
What had been the Hebrew's fate,  
Till the latest straggler came,  
Winning transitory fame,

By a tale by none gainsaid,  
Telling how upon the field  
He had fought to make him yield,  
Failing this had struck him dead,  
As he thought, but later still,  
When he climbed the gory hill,  
Where upon the early day,  
He had seen the body lay,

Found him now removed or fled—  
Which had been, the leader's lot  
'Scaped or fall'n, he knew it not.

It was noon—'tis night—who there  
Roams at this lone hour and dread,  
When the spoiler flees the dead?  
With wild face and clotted hair—  
All unarmed and forehead bare!

Ah, how changed, and yet I trace,  
Cocab's features in the face!



Then he leaves with hurried tread,  
 Pausing on the lonely hill  
 Where he can see Salem still,  
 Or reversing view his dead.—  
 Hark, along the summer air  
 Hear his farewell of Despair!

“ Israel, captive and forlorn,  
 Woe that I should live to mourn!  
 Of thy thousands strown in death,  
 Why has Death still spared me breath?  
 Me, to see the tyrant’s host,  
 Me, to hear his swelling boast,  
 And the midnight of disgrace  
 Me, alone unscathed, to trace,  
 Starless, glooming o’er my race?  
 Why has Death thus stricken low  
     Hearts enamored still of life,  
 While the one who prayed his blow,  
     ’Scares unharmed from Peril’s strife?

“ Thou, who clothed in living fire,  
     Chose us for Thine own, how long  
 Ere the heathen feel Thine ire,  
     And Thy vengeance for our wrong?  
 See on yonder bloody plain,  
 Thousands of Thy people slain,  
 Where a smiling city stood,  
 See the desolate solitude,  
 Let Thine anger, turned from us,  
 Fall on those who spoil us thus,

L. S. G.

Hasten the auspicious hour  
Ushering in Messiah's power,  
Ripening all the prophecy  
That I dreamed fulfilled in me!

“ I see Him,—worthier than I—  
With his glory from afar,  
Who shall bring salvation nigh,  
And disperse the clouds of war.

He shall come to wear the crown  
That the Ages for Him keep—  
His the triumph and renown,  
He the victor's prize shall reap!  
Then, Jerusalem, thou shalt be

The one sacred spot of Earth,  
When from climes beyond the sea,  
Men shall turn their eyes to thee,  
Bowing low and reverently,

To thy high superior worth,  
From thee, shall the Truth proceed,  
By thee, nations shall be freed,  
Thou shalt bid their sorrows cease  
With the benison of peace,  
All the centuries shall endower  
With their wealth, Thy gracious power,  
Art and knowledge, too, combine  
Blent in incense at Thy shrine,  
Justice, wed to Love, shall be

Pillars of Messiah's throne,  
And the kings shall bow the knee,  
And to His sceptre yield their own.

" But, oh Rome! mine enemy,  
 In my occult sight I see,  
 Thou shalt cease to be the Free!  
     For thy power and triumphing,  
     Is indeed a bloodstained thing,  
     Thou who to thy yoke dost bring,  
     All the riches of the Earth.  
 Soon thou shalt not sit in mirth,  
 Sackcloth shall thy covering be.  
 Still uprear to heedless stars,  
     Many a proud memorial arch,  
 Yoke thy captives to the cars  
     Of the Conqueror's homeward march,  
 Wrench from the defenceless East  
 Gems to glitter at thy feast,  
 And then cross the shuddering wave,  
     Beating on the distant shore,  
     In the wantonness of power,  
 Even to make the savage slave.  
 Yet, though thou canst smile to hear  
     Captives clank their galling chains,  
 Know God's justice hovers near,  
     Recompensing for their pains!  
 Wails of subjugated climes  
 Shall prevail against thy crimes,  
 Great and matchless as thou art,  
 Thou shalt know a widowed heart!  
 And against thee shall be hurled  
 All the vengeance of the world,  
 Long and dark the years shall be  
 Of thy nameless infamy! "

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Ceasing with a glance to right,  
Where still Salem towered in light,  
Then a long sad look to meet  
The red field of his defeat,  
With an imprecation fierce,  
    On he fled—my vision still  
    To the wood beyond the hill,  
    Traced him—but no power of will,  
Could his further pathway pierce.  
Oh! where could Hope a covert spread,  
For him to safely lay his head?

## CANTO THIRD

Light beloved of God and man—  
    Bride of Day, with mantling blushes,  
    O'er the kindling Orient flushes.  
All the eyes of Nature scan,  
With a thousand joyous thrills,  
How behind the Eastern hills,  
All the darkness of the Night  
Whitens 'neath the wand of Light—  
Fair the diamond dew dries up  
In the slender lily's cup,  
And in copse and wooded aisles,  
    Grassy field and velvet lawn,  
Nature's tears turn beamy smiles,  
    But the angel of the Dawn.  
In his marvelous revealing,  
    Ne'er more beauteous sight revealed,  
    Than when through the lattice stealing,

Limned with gold the fretted ceiling,  
And the captive's eyes unsealed.

But what makes the lady start,  
With a wildly beating heart,  
As she saw some shape of doom,  
In that sculptured cedarn room,  
With a shudder and a scream?  
Soft, fair Ruth, 'tis but a dream!  
Thrice though hath she dreamed the same,  
Thrice to her hath Cocab came,  
In her Sleep's strange reverie,  
What should the deep portent be?

Thrice by day the Governor came  
With his heart and eyes aflame,  
With a love that conquered pride,  
Offered thrice and thrice denied.  
Thrice the fearful dream returned,  
Lions' eyes that blazing burned,  
Then they doffed their bristling hide,  
As she turned her eyes aside,  
And oh, miracle of grace,  
Cocab stood there in their place!

On a table by her couch,  
Lo, a missive she could vouch,  
Laid not there the night before—  
Wondering then its seal she tore.  
"No disloyalty," it read,  
"Ask I to thy sainted dead,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Let him have the prior part,  
The allegiance of thine heart,  
But give me a friend's esteem,  
Without falsehood unto him ;  
More than this I will not claim,  
Even though pledged a dearer name.  
He being dead, oh, grant to me,  
Right to guide and succor thee !  
As if with his latest word,  
He had bade my suit be heard,  
And committed to me there,  
Thee for my peculiar care.  
Wait the time even till thy grief,  
In its distance finds relief,  
Test my love and find it shown,  
Ever true to win thine own.—  
Ponder what I here avow,  
Nor return thy answer now,  
But in time, oh, let me find,  
Thy sweet will to me resigned.”

Passed a week and then renewed  
He his ardent suit pursued,  
With the argument and art,  
Of a lover's hopeful heart.  
But in vain with Fate to cope,  
Ruth could give his Faith no hope—  
Then as yielding to his fate,  
He seemed less importunate ;  
Seven days rolled by and then  
Seven ere he plead again,

But how changed in that short time,  
Like an age of grief and crime!  
Lo, his cheek had lost its youth,  
White and sunken, too, in sooth,  
And his brow was lined with pain,  
Livid with the starting vein,—  
Even his eye sepulchral shown,  
Bright its beam but wildly thrown,  
Hair unkempt, untrimmed his beard,  
And each feature wan and weird,  
Even his clothing disarranged,—  
Ah, indeed, how sadly changed!

“ Pardon ”—even as he spoke,  
Huskily the wild words broke,—  
“ Pardon, if thou canst,” he cried,  
“ Means which my despair may guide,—  
All my hopes I can resign,  
All but one, thou must be mine—  
If my pleading fails me, force,  
Must at last be my resource.”

With eyes that flashed and bosom heaving,  
Ruth replied, yet scarce believing  
Th’ awful threat his words implied,  
“ Never shall I yield,” she cried,  
“ Though thou to thine aid dost bring,  
Even Captivity’s fiercest sting—  
Shut yon sunshine from my eyes,  
Chain my limbs till each one dies,

Still I bend not to thy will,  
But defy and scorn thee still."

"Oh beware," he said, "beware,  
Dare not more than I can bear!  
Think how near, ere 'tis too late,  
Unrequited love and hate!"

"Call'st thine love? it only proves  
Heart like thine is never loves.  
Slander not the word nor prate  
Of a love akin to hate.—  
Love is of a different soul,  
Owning e'er the same control—  
Still though time and distance part,  
Pays the worship of the heart,  
Pays it e'en though unreturned,  
Or in doubt or firmly spurned.  
As though trampled, still the flower  
Gives its perfume to the bower,  
As the bird with fettered wings,  
Pining, still melodious sings.  
Love no self-will has but bends  
As its deep affection tends—  
Love can suffer, love can wait,  
But ne'er fellowship with hate.  
Love I feared was in thy breast,  
Feared, since it must be unblessed—  
But thy threats have proved to me,  
'Twas not love but vanity—  
Coward thus thy glance to lour



On the captive of thy power!  
 But I feel Bar-Cocab lives—  
 Fear thy different answer gives,  
 Some day, too, he will demand  
 Me, thus thrown into thy hand.  
 But dead or living, hear my oath,  
 Thou canst never win my troth,  
 Heathen as thou art indeed,  
 In thy nature and thy creed,  
 God forbids my life to be  
 Linked in marriage unto thee.”

“Thank thee for the thought! my power  
 Succor yields in Peril’s hour,  
 If love asks its sympathy,  
 But beware its enmity!  
 Thou reproach’st my pagan creed,  
     Woman, dost forget thy faith,  
 Is by Roman law indeed,  
     Judged a crime deserving death?  
 Yet I dare protect thee still—  
 If thou yielddest to my will—  
 Dare me, dread the worst extreme,  
 Scoffed and maddened love may dream!  
 Thine is woman’s thought of love,  
 Pictured in the timid dove  
 But I cannot, being scoffed,  
     School my bursting heart and mind,  
     Meek to bear and be resigned—  
 Nature built me not so soft—  
 I was born to love but once,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

And to find or force response,  
Or the scoffer shall not live,  
On my ruined hopes and give  
Preference to a rival's suit,  
While I worship, meekly mute.  
Nay, decide even now thy fate—  
Love to shield love e'er too late,  
Or deny and bear my hate!"

"So this faithful heart of mine  
Beats" the lady said "like thine,  
Though thou scornest the gentle dove,  
Like her I but once can love."

"Since my love can never move  
Thee into responsive love,  
Take my hate and with it cower,  
'Neath a passion of more power."  
Turning then his serf he called,  
Who before him shrank appalled,  
"Slave, unto a cell convey  
The Jewess saved the other day,  
Strip her of her garb and clothe  
Her in garments Christian loathe,  
Guard her well for with thy head  
Her escape shall be repaid!"  
Then he, waiting no reply,  
Entered in his room of state,  
To seal judicially his hate,  
And sign the writ that she should die.

Calmly creep the hours toward night,  
Calmly sinks the sun from sight,  
Yet before the stars that shine,  
Marking gaudy Day's decline,  
Wheel their glittering ranks in line,  
Wide the tidings spread and seem  
There the universal theme.  
Gentiles freely with the Jew,  
The absorbing theme renew,  
Now her beauty, now her doom,  
Awful in that beauty's bloom,  
And insinuations thrown  
'Tis not for her faith alone,  
And the air of mystery  
What her unknown rank might be,  
During three days given of grace  
Add fresh interest to her case.

Ruth, poor victim of his hate,  
Bears she well her altered state?  
Dungeon fear and fare have they  
Worn her heart of grace away?  
Hath the change from gilded room,  
With all Luxury could provide,  
To the dungeon's rayless gloom,  
Hath this crushed her spirit's pride?  
Nay, in her unshaken breast,  
Faith gives more than earthly rest—  
Trusting Him whose presence near  
Makes a prison shine with cheer;  
Sure a heavenly crown to wear,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

For the passion suffered there,  
So the night brought slumber deep—  
Peaceful as an infant's sleep.

Not such nights, though, o'er him passed,  
Since her tyrant saw her last.  
To his sleep deserted eyes  
Constantly her features rise,  
Else his home a solitude,  
Where forbidden in his mood,  
All but servants to intrude,  
Who with fear pass shuddering by,  
That mad glance and blood-shot eye,  
Or beside his doorway crouch,  
Proffering food he will not touch.  
There he sits for hours alone,  
Motionless and heeding none,  
In the room where once he came,  
To her whom, now, none can name,  
Though it suits his frenzy there,  
To recline upon her chair,  
    With his head leaned on his hands,  
    Thinking—but who understands  
    What the madness of despair,  
That aflame with wild revenge,  
Will not, cannot, pause or change,  
Though it feels when all alone,  
Reason totter on her throne,  
Like some ship, her rudder gone,  
Whom the gale drives madly on."

Oft he startles from his chair,  
With a madman's glassy glare,  
Fleeing on from room to room,  
As Orestes fled his doom,  
While the words of desperate fear,  
Fall on every bondsman's ear ;  
Telling how in his wild mood,  
Fire he feels consume his blood,  
And, apart from mortal life,  
His spirit writhes in deathless strife,  
And, around, as in him, plays  
Tortures of that endless blaze,  
Which flames e'er unquenchable,  
For the lives that merit hell ;  
Or, recurring to its cause,  
Perhaps the sight his frenzy draws,  
Limns a maiden young and fair,  
Whose sad eyes implore to spare,  
    While on her nude limbs are stains,  
    From the bruise of galling chains,  
On their whiteness gleaming there.  
Near her in the act to spring,  
Lo ! a lion balancing,  
Missing her, the beast has pressed,  
Its rough hide against his breast.  
So vivid is his fancy's sight,  
Nature sickening faints outright,  
But revived his mind grows clear,  
Cursing at the frenzied fear,  
Then he seeks his room to hide,  
The shame of his unhumbled pride.

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

'Twas the second night that fell  
O'er Ruth in her dismal cell,  
Full the Moon, half-heaven high,  
Bright the stars bestud the sky,  
Hushed the breeze, so calm, so still,  
Not an echo left the hill,  
The Governor in her empty room,  
Watched the early shadows gloom,  
And upon that heaven so clear,  
Marked the glittering orbs appear,  
As if (as ancient oracles say,  
Shone in their sybillic ray,  
The destinies of men indeed),  
There he strove his fate to read ;  
Long he looked along that scene,  
    Feeling perhaps his fevered breast,  
    Soothed to something like to rest,  
'Neath those rays so calm though keen :  
Long perchance he still had gazed,  
Till a casual eye he raised,  
To a star that shone so bright,  
On the dark blue plain of night,  
He chose it for his future's flight,  
When through those still depths of air,  
    Lo, it fell a trail of light  
    Fading into utter night !  
Chilling him with a worse despair.  
" Oh," he murmured, " even the sky  
Threatens curses from on high !"  
Nor e'er could he look again  
On that sparkling, starry plain,

But, so slight a thing can change,  
Turned on maddening thoughts to range.

Hours, long hours, he paces round,  
And his footfalls echoed sound,  
Wakes the slaves that hear with dread,  
That quick, tireless, ceaseless, tread.  
Then a shriek their ears appall,  
Lo, a ghastly shriek, a fall,  
Then a gurgling cry of pain,  
Then a silence dread again,  
Then a moment's list to hear,  
The last echo strike the ear,  
Then with bated breath dismayed,  
And lit tapers rush to aid,  
Though their heavy hearts forebode  
They can do their lord no good.

Dread the scene that meets their sight,  
By the taper's flickering light,  
There scarce dead their master laid,  
Pierced through by his sheathless blade;  
In his madness thus their lord,  
Had misused his battled sword.  
The poor useless arms still shake,  
At the timid touch they make;  
Wild his eyes ope at that touch,  
Then close sightless in reproach,  
As they bear him to his bed,  
Yet they know the soul has fled,  
Ere the leech they send for still,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Sadly mourns his lack of skill.  
Ah, too sure th' aim of despair  
For a hope of saving there!

Ruth, although the deed fulfilled,  
What her bosom feared not willed,  
Felt the end so swift, the blow,  
Seemed to her her greatest woe.  
Fast and sympathizing fell,  
The first tears shed in her cell,  
And regret her lips express,  
Silent for her own distress.  
'Mazed the jailer views the scene,  
Of the captive who had been,  
In the cell as calm as though  
She had neither fear nor woe,  
Mourn him now whose lawless hate,  
Doomed her to her awful fate.  
So little do they know who live  
    'Mid men's scenes of battled strife,  
    With revenge and rancor rife,  
How a woman can forgive!

It does not to her heart occur,  
What his death may mean to her.  
How the hope her bosom pent,  
That at last he might relent,  
And with love o'ercoming hate,  
Save her from the grasp of fate,  
Was now irrevocably gone.  
But it comes now with the sun,



That is ushering into birth,  
 Her last day upon the Earth;  
 Comes but not disturbs the mind,  
 That, on heav'n fixed, is resigned.  
 Feeling in her longing breast,  
 Yearnings to embrace the test,  
 And win what gleams before her eyes,  
 Hope of hopes, the martyr's prize.  
 Though she does not boast to seal,  
 Her belief in blood and feel  
 Without shudder or a groan,  
 From torn flesh and broken bone,  
 But her heart has pondered o'er,  
 Those who greater sufferings bore,  
 Since Stephen testifying stood,  
 And his faith sealed with his blood,  
 Confident that strength from Heaven  
 To its bleeding saints is given!

Morning dawns on Ruth's dread day,  
 Mocking with its brightest ray.  
 Th' early matin lay she heard,  
 Of the unimprisoned bird,  
 That high o'er her dungeon dun,  
 First salutes the rising sun.  
 Free the winds around her waft  
 Th' odors of the flowers they quaffed,  
 And she hears the rustling trees,  
 Swayed to motion by the breeze,  
 Till the jailer brings her food,  
 And disturbs her solitude.

The theatre that Herod built,  
Still in pride of beauty stood,  
Its shafts elaborately hewed  
From the costliest marble, filled  
With hate, thy sons Jerusalem!  
Whose bigotry abhorred that gem;  
Scorning th' efforts of his reign,  
To enveil the tyrant's chain,  
That he forged around her rights  
By proud domes and pleasure sites;  
Vainly does he woo their hearts,  
They hated him and scoffed his arts,  
Yet had they foreseen had come,  
There to cruel martyrdom,  
An apostate from their creed,  
They had pardoned him the deed,  
Rearing close their temple by  
The pile they deemed profanely nigh.

Never since it had been built,  
Had such concourse in it filled,  
As at the dread hour had come,  
T' applaud the christian's martyrdom.  
For to grandly celebrate,  
Th' advent to his new estate,  
The Governor's successor had  
To the scene his subjects bade.  
First a drama, but the crowd  
Feverishly, with whispers loud,  
Wait the final scene, in them,  
Music soft or play-queen's gem,

Or lithe dancer ne'er at rest,  
 Wake but little interest.  
 Tier o'er tier, a countless throng,  
 Arch and galleries among,  
 Wait with deep impatience there,  
 Ruth's arrival and despair.  
 Even woman's gentler soul,  
 Chafes at mercy's mild control,  
 And without solicitude,  
 Hopes to shed a sister's blood,  
 While apart and seated high,  
 The Governor looks with stoic eye.

Now the crowd grew hushed as death,  
 Expectation held its breath,  
 As with mighty roar each beast,  
 In th' arena was released.  
 First the crier did advise,  
 Crimes for which the victim dies ;  
 Such he charged the christian name,  
 Roused the mob to wilder flame ;  
 But the jailer led her there,  
     As if grown compassionate,  
     He now mourned her horrid fate,  
     And despised th' unreasoning hate,  
 That could slay a thing so fair.  
 Standing on the parapet,  
     That barred from the dangerous place,  
     Where the beasts crouch low or chase  
     'Round the strong protected place,  
 Waiting, for no signal yet,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

From the Governor's hands display,  
He shall cast the beasts their prey.

Murmurs 'scaped the multitude,  
As before them all she stood,  
E'en of admiration—ne'er  
Had they seen a face more fair.  
Youth's soft bloom was scarcely pale,  
On the cheek that told no tale  
Of distress; each lustrous eye,  
Ne'er had beamed more bright or dry;  
Terror reigned not in her breast;  
But in peace and self-possessed,  
She turned on the populace  
The rapt sunshine of her face.  
As some winged creature fair,  
Who a moment had lit there,  
Might glance on them surely safe,  
Though their powerless rage might chafe,  
So she gazed at them; but they  
Felt no pang of pity pray  
In their hearts—the beasts that champed  
Hungry jaws and fought and stamped  
In th' arena had more grace,  
Than th' infuriate populace.

Still the Governor's hands delay!  
Hath now Mercy won the day,  
'Gainst th' insensate lust to slay?  
Dare he now absolve her creed,  
That to him is crime indeed?

Dare he thwart the thirsting mood,  
Of that craven multitude?  
Sooth, then, he is more than brave,  
If this hour he seeks to save!  
Why the pause, while wild and loud  
Rings the clamor of the crowd?  
Lo, he stands irresolute,  
Listening to a stranger's suit,  
Which must be of grave import,  
Now to occupy his thought.  
Leaning next he waves to gain  
Their ear and the delay explain:  
" Friends, this stranger brings my ear,  
Tidings of new danger near,  
Which but half an hour in sooth,  
Or confirms or proves untruth.  
But a few weeks since I knew  
Cocab as an outcast Jew,  
Leading on a lawless horde,  
To whom pillage was reward,  
Till the later tidings bore,  
Jew revolt from Roman power ;  
Then the news of battles fought,  
His force destroyed, himself uncaught.  
This man, fled from his command,  
Brings strange tidings of his band,  
How Bar-Cocab 'scaped again,  
With the remnant of his men,  
From each distant province draws,  
New support unto his cause,  
Of whom he himself was one ;

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

But for evil to him done,  
By his chief, repeated long,  
Now seeks vengeance for his wrong,  
And will Cocab's plans betray.  
Rescue! seize her! traitor, stay!"

Too late to foil the rescue planned  
By Bar-Cocab and who fled  
From the field of ruin red,  
To grasp from a consenting hand,  
The prisoner whom the jailer held—  
Who well bribed and fully taught,  
Unsuspected, as he brought  
Ruth near where the lions fought,  
Chose a place to stand and wait,  
For the signal, near a gate,  
Farthest from the crowd but near  
Where outside three friends appear,  
And as the stranger's word compelled  
The Governor his tale to hear,  
And a moment to him drew  
The multitude's attention, too,  
Few saw the treachery consummated,  
Nor marked how springing out the gate  
Another bore her lovely weight,  
And joining there the three who waited,  
Strode a steed that saddled stood,  
And galloped with them unpursued,  
Until by a cry recalled,  
Th' audience beheld appalled,

But all powerless, whence they fled,  
Of their prey disherited.

Then a chaos reigned that made,  
For escape a welcome aid.  
Leaping from the Governor's grasp,  
The stranger did his sword unclasp—  
Almost gained the outer door,  
As his way he fiercely bore,  
When a voice o'er the uproar :—  
“ 'Tis Bar-Cocab's self,” it cries ;  
“ Seize him ere yon door he tries ! ”  
One is dead, who rashly thought,  
To debar the path he sought ;  
Two have felt his fatal blade,  
But in vain—the mob have made,  
Concerted onslaught where he stood,  
And thrown to Earth he is subdued.

Execrations load the air,  
'Gainst the captive pinioned there,  
Who dared own his name nor quailed  
At the hatred that assailed,  
But cast his fearless eye along,  
That mad disappointed throng,  
As if 'mid a feast's repose,  
'Stead of circled 'round with foes,  
Who even of his nation stood,  
Thirsting, too, to shed his blood ;  
Hearts that yesterday had bled,  
Following the cause he led,

## The Bride of Bar-Cocab

Loathe him now who snatched from death,  
The apostate from their faith,  
Deeming him by that displayed,  
E'en like her a renegade.

Bold his eyes survey the place,  
With defiance to each face;  
Then on the arena's space,  
Resting but a moment there,  
As the lions' eyeballs glare,  
Yet, as quick as light, the thought,  
The wild multitude has caught.  
"Ad leones!" is the cry,  
"Such the fate that suits the spy!  
He has stolen our prey, 'tis fair,  
He himself the theft repair!"  
That cry that rolls impatiently,  
May not now resisted be.  
"Loose his bands!" and unarmed yet,  
They fling him o'er the parapet.  
With a roar that rolls along,  
Like a thunder cloud among  
Echoing hills, the lions rush

\* \* \* \* \*

This was centuries ago;  
All are dead and mingled dust,  
All who made the storied show,  
Blown with every desert gust,  
King and outlaw, lord and slave,  
None can tell their name or grave.



But the monks delight to tell,  
As they ring the convent bell,  
As they count their evening beads,  
Of a holy lady's deeds,  
Of the constancy and truth,  
Of the ancient Abbess Ruth,  
Of her goodness to the poor,  
To the suffering and obscure,  
How that in the desert sands,  
Crouching tigers kissed her hands,  
And the birds left tree and air,  
And her charmed companions were.  
So to days of snow white hair,  
Till God's gentle minister,  
Death, breathed o'er her face, and she  
Woke to immortality.  
So fore'er the good we do,  
Plants a seed that grows anew,  
Somewhere to fresh living starts,  
Shrined in other human hearts.  
As a flower that dies to give,  
Seed that in the Spring will live,  
So the memory of the pure,  
Will perennially endure;  
While the wealthy and the great,  
Perish with their things of state,  
And memorial brass and stone  
Are by rust and Time o'erthrown.



## The Last Day in the Hospital



## THE LAST DAY IN THE HOSPITAL

Cold and bleak the walls arise  
Of the Hospital de l'Isle,  
Though above are shining skies,  
And around the waters smile.

Still there Nature's face to view,  
Seems most serious as you pass,  
On the wave a darker blue,  
Darker green upon the grass.

P'rhaps 'tis fancy, still it seems  
There less joyous comes the Spring,  
With less zest the Morning beams,  
And the birds less gladly sing.

Even the glitter of the lights,  
Gleaming through the iron barred glass,  
Strews a ghastly glare at nights,  
To the steamers as they pass.

But within its sombre walls,  
All is peaceful, white and calm,  
Through its neat planned wards and halls,  
Breathes a constant prayer and psalm.

For there free from petty strife,  
Social pangs and Scandal's breath,

## The Last Day in the Hospital

Broods the mystery of Life,  
Glooms the mystery of Death.

Read how greater still one day,  
Like the star of Jove above  
Half the Heaven's dimmer ray,  
Came the mystery of Love!

---

When they bore him in the boat,  
To the Hospital, it seemed  
That they bore a corpse afloat,  
Hope not even the doctors dreamed.

Feverish, weak and long confined  
On a bed of waning breath,  
Sleep fell on his soul and mind,  
Like the shade of coming death.

Nothing of his life they knew,—  
Found unconscious on the street,  
Richly dressed and moneyed too,  
Still no tales his lips repeat.

In his pockets, not a scrap  
Gave of that veiled past a clue,  
What the cause of his mishap,  
Whence his illness, no one knew.

So upon his bed he lay,  
Death and Life for him at strife,

Death now seemed to win the fray,  
Hope now seemed to side with Life.

So he crawled to Health's fair track,  
As a swimmer who might go,  
Too far out to sea, comes back  
With laborious strokes and slow.

Then from lips long stilled to speech,  
Like a coin, a word outrolled  
And the tale long out of reach,  
Seemed on tip of being told.

But the message, at the first,  
Proved the burden of a mind,  
That, 'mid personal griefs, rehearsed  
Musings of a larger kind.

"This is the Progressive Age,"  
Thus he murmured, "We are heirs,  
Not indeed of seer and sage,  
But of men of wide affairs.

"Not of Wisdom, not of Grace,  
These we count but little things,  
In the greed of Pelf and Place  
In the reign of Money Kings.

"True some millionaire may bid,  
Thousands for a painted head,  
But its worth to him is hid,  
And its artist died unfed.

## The Last Day in the Hospital

"Poets, Progress once might use,  
In a world in swaddling clothes,  
Now we relegate the Muse  
To the Nursery or to Prose.

"These are days we serve strange gods,  
Man of brawn and dainty prig,  
All give worship seeking odds,  
But the gamble must be big.

"What are all these big things worth,  
All the mighty works we do,  
If we build of baser Earth,  
If our models are not true?

"Do you think Bartholdi's Gog,  
Worth a single finger planned,  
(From an auction catalogue),  
By old Praxiteles' hand?

\* \* \* \* \*

"Never fastest railroad train,  
Fastest steamer built for pelf,  
Could convey nor trick of brain,  
Sordid past from present self.

"No reality of Wealth,  
Trust me this is Heaven's plan,  
Or by might or guile or stealth,  
Can Man cheat his fellow man.



“ Each must give the best he has  
To the general fund for all,  
What he keeps like the upas,  
Turns to poison or to gall.

“ See the miser’s hoarded gold,  
Purchasing his children’s sin!  
While he moulders in the mold,  
Spent on wantons and on gin.

“ What if thou wert Cræsus’ heir,  
What if thine was Cæsar’s power,—  
Place to sleep and clothes to wear,  
Food and drink were all their dower.

“ And of these the least is best,  
For the most thou art their slave,  
One must toil to be well drest,  
Every palace is a grave.

“ See the moccasined Indian stand,  
In his breech clothed nakedness,  
And upon the other hand,  
Mark the fop’s parade of dress.

“ Which is puppet? which is man?  
Which has wealth of brain and brawn?  
Or for a sartorial plan,  
Would’st thou put the soul in pawn?

“ Though e’er since the dawn of Time,  
Honor, Virtue, have been sold

## The Last Day in the Hospital

To that Jezebel of Crime,  
The wide reaching lust of Gold.

“ But this is a special age,  
Bastard of a hybrid Past,  
Mounting all things on its stage,  
Serio-comic still but vast.

“ Vast its marvelous energies,  
Bridling lightning, harnessing steam,  
Vast its white fleet on the seas,  
Vast its huge imperial dream.

“ And in such a land as this,  
Destined for a fate sublime,  
Though the Hope of Freedom, 'tis  
Still the raw recruit of Time.

“ Still chaotic forces wake,  
And with lawless vigor burn,  
Now a negro at the stake,  
Now a President in turn.

“ See the despotism of Gold,  
Crushing Labor to the soil!  
And grown blatant, boastful, bold,  
See the tyranny of Toil!

\* \* \* \* \*

“ What if rich enough to be,  
Th' adage of thy day and chief,

If on God's page thou canst see,  
'Gainst thy name the label 'Thief'?

"Smug, respectable and neat,  
Dives' days with riches dwell,  
In the Church the foremost seat,  
But at Death a place in hell.

"Hell! ah pardon me the word,  
'Tis unfashionable now,  
E'en the pulpit too has heard  
Culture's mandate and must bow.

"Truth, who cares to know the Truth?  
'Tis an opiate men require,  
That they may sin on in sooth,  
Nor feel Conscience dog Desire.

"'Tis not Day we seek nor Light,  
Nor to bask in Truth's clear ray,  
But owl eyes to pierce the Night,  
And to tread the Dark as Day.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Men since Babel have been found,  
Who on Heaven made assault,  
Now, descending to the ground,  
Even Nature is at fault.

"These philosophers perplex  
Her primeval plainest plan,

## The Last Day in the Hospital

Would outlaw her scheme of sex,  
Throning Woman over Man.

“Strident voiced and brazen cheeked,  
Masculine in ways and air,  
Is this hybrid thing and streaked,  
What the poets call the fair?

“Lo, her idle days are spent,  
Seeking some new Pleasure’s thrill,  
Or in spleen and discontent,  
Nagging at a husband’s will!

“There her ill-fed children lie,  
Huddled in a cheerless room,  
Or her cold abortions die  
Murdered in her useless womb.

“Or to wilder life betrayed,  
Under social order’s ban,  
Is this what the Lord God made,  
As a helpmeet unto man?”

\* \* \* \*

So as one who tries his throat,  
With some long forgotten rune,  
Slowly gathers note and note,  
Till he melds the perfect tune.

So he gathered thought by thought,  
All the gamut of his soul,

Till self-consciousness was brought,  
From vague fragments to a whole.

So from fields of sleep and dreams,  
He returned with memory  
Of the vivid Past that teems  
With the self he used to be.

Still at last it was the sight  
Of a dear, long treasured face,  
Brought him from vacant night,  
To the day of self and place.

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“Nurse, the summer day has fled,  
If you have an hour to spare,  
Sit you down beside my bed,  
Let me thank you for your care.

“You have won me back to life,  
Borne my humor, borne my frown,  
Tenderer than a new wed wife,  
To a husband stricken down.

“All my life has gone for naught,  
From a woman's broken vow,  
Ah, for years I little thought,  
I could love again as now!

“But the love that mental strife,  
Banished from this heart of mine,

## The Last Day in the Hospital

Came again with fuller life,  
Seeing that dear face of thine.

“Strange, your face resembles her,  
Strange, you bear her Christian name,  
I could fancy that there were  
Voice and mien in both the same.

“She was of a type as fair  
As fond Nature’s mold supplies,  
With her wealth of raven hair,  
And the treasure of her eyes.

“Fool I was! but such is youth,  
Captured by a sylph-like form,  
Charms the choicest food forsooth,  
Destined for the eyeless worm.

“But her face, my fancy deemed,  
Was but the expression fair,  
Of the perfect soul that beamed  
With a faint reflection there.

“Would it had been—would my life  
Had in smoother channels run,  
With the sunshine of a wife,  
And a family o’er me thrown.

“Fool! to cast it all away,  
For a faithless woman’s sake!  
With my heart torn fresh each day,  
Like Prometheus on his stake.

“ Fool! and worse to leave my kind,  
Feeding on myself alone,  
Slowly narrowing down my mind,  
Turning all my heart to stone.

“ Sure in thoughts of larger spheres  
Nature meant my mind to be,  
Than to brood for bitter years,  
O'er a woman's perjury.

“ Surely Nature formed my heart,  
For a larger fuller course,  
Than to waste its better part,  
In the love of dog and horse.

“ Yet I know not, they at least,  
Never have been so forsworn,  
The affection of a beast  
Often shames the human born.

“ In my faithful dog or horse,  
Would there any change occur,  
If my clothes were fine or coarse?  
Were their owner rich or poor?

“ But my poverty was made,  
Bar unto her sire's consent,  
She her father's greed obeyed,  
Bending as his will was bent.

“ Still she loved me she averred!  
But I left her in my scorn,

Who would trust a plighted word,  
That so easily was o'erborne?

"He would sell her happiness,  
Auctioning a daughter's heart,  
As they sell for more or less,  
Cattle in the cattle mart.

"Out upon the cursed tribe,  
Simon Magus led of old,  
Who would the Almighty bribe!  
With the offer of their gold!

"In the love of honest hearts,  
In esteem of noble minds,  
Is it want of wealth that parts,  
Or a band of gold that binds?

"Were my feelings not as fine,  
Was my brain of lower range,  
When this signature of mine,  
Had no value on Exchange?

"What became of her? Who knows?  
Probably some clod of gold,  
Wealthy as her father chose,  
Bought her as a slave is sold.

"Perhaps a better care to have  
Than the crouching negress got,  
Named a wife instead of slave,  
Still a bargain sold and bought."



Darker fell upon the place  
Evening shadows weird and grim,  
And he could not see her face,  
As she interrupted him.

“Cease from thy distempered mood,  
Railing on without a cause,  
False unto her womanhood,  
Is the picture that it draws.

“Cast again thy memory back  
To the final parting scene,  
Though it be a sterile track,  
Stretching drearily between.

“See a youth in fiery mood,  
And a maiden young and fair,  
In the twilight solitude,  
'Neath the oak tree standing there.

“Hear his voice impulsive grown,  
Proof of his imperious will,  
List her gentler undertone,  
Often scoffed yet pleading still.

“Will he reason? Will he hear?  
Will he listen to her prayer?  
See he turns a stone-deaf ear,  
And abruptly leaves her there.

“And she watches him the while,  
With her eyes in brimming tears,

## The Last Day in the Hospital

Till he crosses o'er the stile,  
And in distance disappears.

"Then she to her home returns,  
And resumes her daily life,  
Hides the burdened heart that mourns,  
And her feelings constant strife.

"Illness seized her father's health,  
And she nursed him till he died,  
Leaving her his landed wealth,  
And whate'er he owned beside.

"Fortune thus at her command,  
Many suitors flocked and strove,  
Long to win her heart and hand,  
But she knew no second love.

"And the blush upon her cheek,  
Daily grew more faint and pale,  
Daily waned her strength more weak,  
And her faith began to fail.

"Ten long summers had she mourned,  
But the recreant never came,  
And the love with which she burned,  
Burned her hope out in its flame.

"So she gave her wealth away,  
Keeping but a pittance scant,  
To ensure her day by day,  
From the carking cares of want.

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“ So she bade farewell to friends,  
And became at last a nurse,  
Seeking by unselfish ends,  
To avert her life's great curse.”

Rising feebly from his bed,  
With excess of feeling dumb,  
Opening wide his arms he said,  
In a husky whisper, “ Come ! ”

As a fledgling from the nest,  
Seeks the mother bird she crept,  
Laid her head upon his breast,  
And from very rapture wept.

Then with lover's words he cheers,  
Clasps her often to his breast,  
Kissing dry her flowing tears,  
With a freedom unrepressed.

Tells her how in years of strife,  
He amassed a golden store,  
Which together with his life,  
Will be her's forevermore.

So when parting came at last,  
Parting till the coming day,  
All the darkness of the Past,  
Had in Sunshine fled away.

THE WINTHROP PRESS  
32 Lafayette Place  
New York City

















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